

Parents

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Friday
November 6 1998
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The Guardian

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Sport98, Cover story



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Clare Short, page 12

The human cells that will revolutionise medicine

Rate cut throws industry a lifeline

Tim Radford
Science Editor

AMERICAN scientists announced today a discovery that could trigger a revolution in medical treatment: they have found a way to grow any kind of human tissue in the laboratory.

The breakthrough, the most dramatic since the cloning of Dolly the sheep, comes with the cultivation of human embryonic stem cells, cells which contain within them the potential to become anything at all — blood, muscle, skin, even organ tissue — in the growing human body.

Two teams of US researchers have been able to "immortalise" these stem cells in mice. But today, they report in the US journal *Science*, they have reached one of science's holy grails. They have found a way to grow the cells of human organs in the test tube.

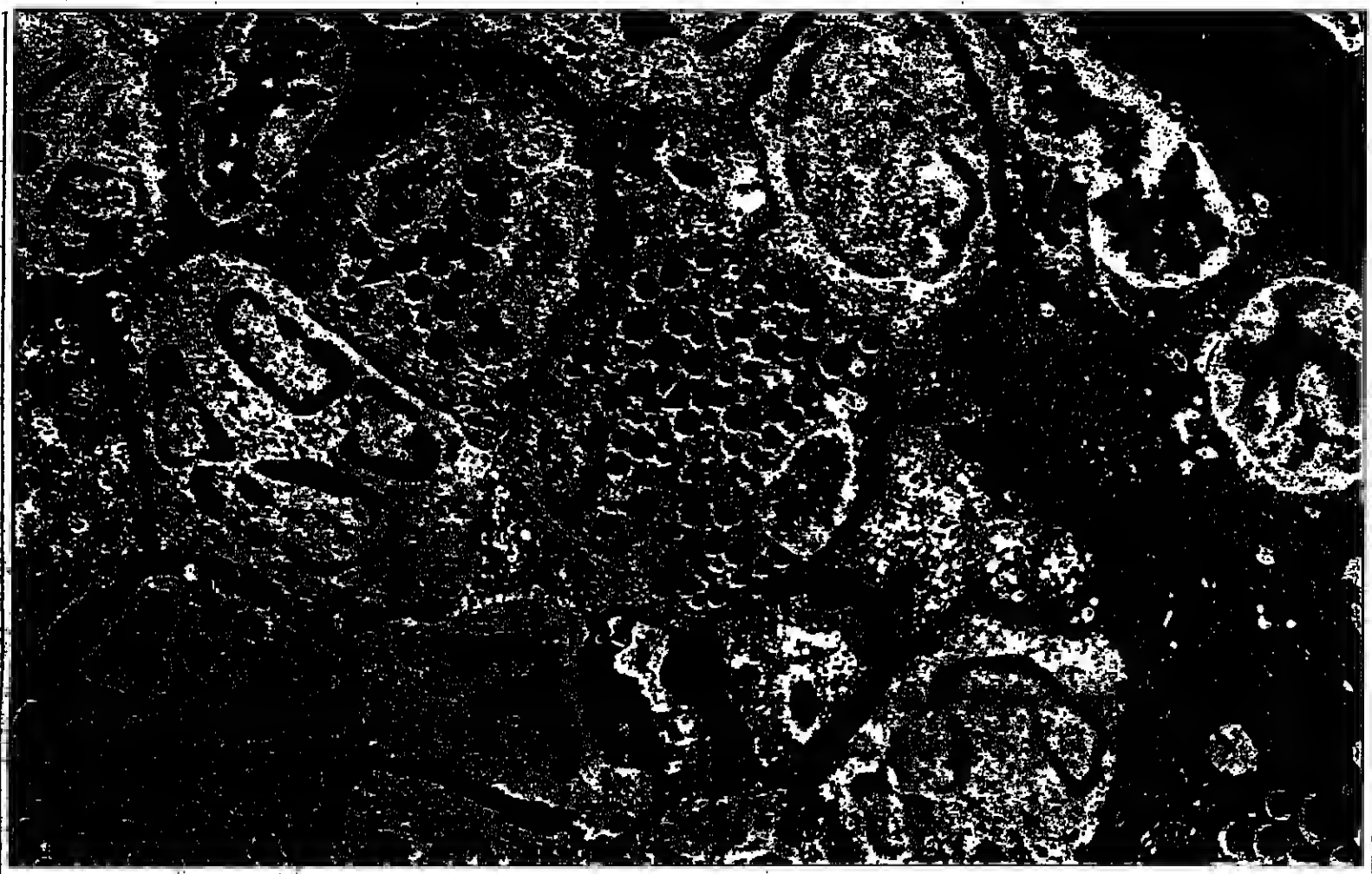
They identified stem cells, the master cells that make all the other cells — and found ways to make them survive indefinitely in a laboratory freezer. They then managed to cultivate them.

One group produced five sets of cell "lines" in the laboratory and watched them differentiate into the three primary tissue types of the human body, and these differentiated again into the cells that make up human cartilage, bone, muscle, nerve and gut — which could then be used in medical treatment.

"The potential of these unique, versatile cells for human biologic studies and medicine is enormous," said John Gearhart of Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, in Baltimore, Maryland, who will publish a separate but similar discovery in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

James Thomson, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who led a separate team, said: "I believe in the long run they will revolutionise many aspects of transplantation medicine."

British researchers pursue...



Blood cells differentiating in human bone marrow. Scientists hope their discovery will lead to new ways of treating diseases. PHOTOGRAPH BY SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

ing the same research were also jubilant last night. "The hype is justified," said Dr Robin Lovell-Badge of the Medical Research Council in London.

"This offers the possibility of really transforming medicine in the next century," said Dr Austin Smith of the Centre for genome research at the University of Edinburgh.

Paradoxically, the research raises enormous potential problems for the Americans. The tissue in the university laboratory dishes is taken from in vitro fertilised embryos less than one week old, no longer wanted for transplantation into infertile women. The tissue cannot "grow" into a baby —

but it can be triggered into making liver cells or blood cells or any other specialised organs and tissues.

But although research on human embryos is permitted in Britain — if researchers can persuade the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority that it is justified — there are no federal funds for any such research in the US, because of the public alarm over the possible cloning of humans, first raised last year by the cloning of Dolly the sheep in Edinburgh.

So the US studies were entirely financed by the Geron Corporation of California. The commercial biotechnology company is the winner in

a 17-year international race to find a way to make human spare parts.

The discovery has profound implications for transplant medicine, drug discovery and basic developmental biology. The researchers say that the new tissue cultures could lead to new ways of treating diabetes, heart disease, some forms of cancer, possibly within a decade.

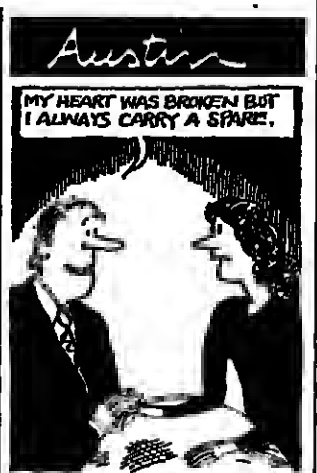
These could be used to screen thousands of chemicals for effective medicines. But the hope is that such cells could be used to repair spine and brain disease.

"One could make brain cells from these stem cells and transplant them into a

site where brain cells are dying in people with Huntington's or Parkinson's diseases or even people who have had a stroke," said Dr Smith.

In theory, because the embryonic cells would not be fully formed, they could "take" in the new host. Dr Smith already has funding from the UK Medical Research Council to examine the technique in animals.

"I think we will be doing it with Huntington's in 10 years," he said. And James Thomson said: "It's no longer in the realm of science fiction. I really believe that within my lifetime we will see diseases treated by these therapies."



Doubts cast on Downing Street Davies story

Michael White and
Wm Woodward

DOWNING Street was "economical with the truth" over important details about the circumstances of Ron Davies's dramatic resignation as Welsh Secretary, it emerged last night. A crucial distinction surfaced between the details that Downing Street was prepared to make public and what it actually knew of the affair.

"The distinction was glossed over in terms of what Tony Blair's press secretary then called the 'salient facts' and what he now admits were 'rumours' and 'speculation' about a sexual encounter that had filtered through the Whitehall network in the hours after Mr Davies was robbed at knifepoint."

The issue dominated the twice-daily lobby briefings yesterday after it emerged that discussions had been going on at the highest levels on Tuesday morning and that far

from being taken back, Mr Blair had been briefed on some details of the extraordinary events which led to Mr Davies's resignation.

In fact, John Stevens, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan police, spoke to Home Secretary Jack Straw and Downing Street chief of staff Jonathan Powell about the Davies robbery in the hour before Mr Davies met Mr Blair at Downing Street.

The only background to the incident disclosed by the Home Office was "that there

had been a crime against Ron Davies and it occurred after Ron had been out on Clapham Common and had met a black male," Mr Blair's spokesman said.

Mr Blair's spokesman suggested that Mr Davies admitted he had changed his story several times and lied. It has also been claimed that Mr Davies admitted to police he was "cruising for homosexual sex". The Home Office and Number 10 deny they were told this. All Downing Street would say last night was that Mr Blair knew there were

"discrepancies" in what Mr Davies had told police.

It was revealed that far from volunteering a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr Davies had been summoned to explain himself.

The most widely quoted phrase reported from the Downing Street spokesman's lips in the ensuing 36 hours was the remark that: "There is no evidence at all of any gay link or drug link. There are no salient facts in our possession that are not in yours."

It still does not know what really happened when Mr Davies committed a "serious lapse of judgment" on Clapham Common.

Mr Blair's spokesman said: "Last week I was briefing you on a very difficult and very painful departing member of the Cabinet. I freely acknowledged at the time there were parts of this story I found as baffling as you."

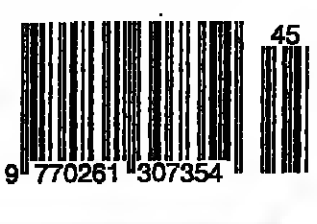
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Sketch

Honest Frank's roll call of neglect



Simon Hoggart

THERE'S something gratifying, and even moving, when the Commons debates a topic which it can do something about. Kosovo, Iraq, the state of the British economy — these are intractable problems beyond the control of MPs. Inevitably, debates on such subjects tend to be empty, long-winded and posturing.

But child abuse is something they can, perhaps, affect. Yesterday Frank Dobson made a statement about last year's Utting Report on children in care.

Mr Dobson is the Health Secretary. At the time Utting reported, he was regarded as something of a joke figure among Cabinet ministers. No speech at last year's Tory conference was complete without a few Frank Dobson gags, mostly recycled Irish jokes. These were greatly appreciated by the representatives, who generally lack a sense of humour, but know how to laugh when they are told.

In fact Mr Dobson has proved to be one of the most efficient tactical operators in this Government. Unlike almost all other ministers, he has managed to extract extra money — lots of extra money — from the Treasury.

His reputation in hospital waiting lists is one of the few successes the Government has been able to report. (Of course, it's mostly fraudulent. In that people with short, simple operations are whizzed to the top of the list, but that's politics for you.)

Best of all, he has a decent, honest and straightforward way of speaking to the House. It's not rhetorical, it's not full of cheap oratory, and it makes few party political points. People laugh with him, but these days very few laugh at him.

The Tories have found it almost impossible to put a glove on him, which is why Ann

Wildecombe, the shadow health secretary, tends to find her own triumphs outside the Commons.

Yesterday Mr Dobson said starkly that many children who had been taken into care for their protection and to receive help had received neither. Instead they had been abused and molested.

"This wasn't just a failure by the staff directly concerned. It was a failure by social services managers, by councils, councillors, the police, the court system, schools, voluntary organisations, neighbours, the news media, government departments, ministers and Parliament."

Such a long list could have seemed merely banal, an evasive proclamation that we are all guilty. But read out in Mr Dobson's flat, emphatic Northern accent, it had the opposite effect. It became a terrible, thundering roll call of neglect, ignorance and complacency.

The whole system had failed, he said, and the whole system had to be put right. "I asked everybody to... ask, 'would this have been good enough for me when I was a child?' or 'would this be good enough for my own children?'"

He described vividly the experience of being a child brought up outside a family. "No home to live in or return to. No shoulder to cry on. No morale-boosting chat before an interview, nor anyone to console us if it went badly. No one to give us a lift or make us a meal... the list is endless."

"And no one to drag us to the cops if we're caught selling a spliff," as one of my more cynical colleagues remarked. There were a few New Labour, new clichés: a three-year programme to curbing child abuse, "Quality Protection", and a reference to "joined-up Government", that sneaky, condescending phrase that has the dabs of the Downing Street neologisms all over it. But that doesn't matter.

Ms Wildecombe left it up to her understaffer Phil Hammond (C Runnymede) to reply. Mr Hammond looks like the chap in a BBC period drama who is engaged to the heroine before she falls for the leading bloke. He tried to turn the statement into a party political occasion, and ended up looking very silly.

Review

Brisk, but only the Half Monty

Derek Malcolm

Little Voice
Odeon, Leicester Square

AFTER the near-disaster of last year's *Keep the Aspidochelone*, *Little Voice*, the London Film Festival's opening attraction last night, looks like a master piece. In fact, Mark Herman's first film since the highly successful *Brassed Off* is scarcely that.

It is a highly coloured, parodic and comically brisk screen adaptation of Jim Cartwright's play, which gives Jane Horrocks a chance to reprise her role as the introverted young girl, hooked out of a down-at-heel seaside home by a veteran showbiz con man to become a singer.

From the onset, the film plunges into the story, encouraging its starchy all-British cast very near to caricature right up until its mock-cathartic but feel-good ending.

Apart from the admirable Horrocks, who paints the introspective young warbler in terms not far from the charac-

ters she tends to play in Mike Leigh films, there is Brenda Blethyn as her blowzy mother, Michael Caine as the second-rate promoter and Ewan McGregor as the shy young pigeon fancier who falls for the girl. There is also Jim Broadbent as the sleazy club MC who is Caine's sidekick.

This is quite a cast but their considerable comic skills would have been better deployed on a less strident level, since the vital thing the film lacks is a balance between farce and the serious points Cartwright is trying to make about greed, exploitation and fakery.

Only once does *Little Voice* change into a more reflective gear, when the con man sits on the girl's bed and tells her a children's fantasy in an attempt to persuade her to escape her mundane existence. Here Caine, calling on his considerable experience, justifies his presence beyond any doubt. It is the film's one indelible moment.

At other times, however, *Little Voice* seems so overtly anxious to please that it takes on the same faults it is trying to underline. It is as greedy for success as the con man himself and you feel that if it stopped trying to grab you by the throat so often, its grip might be considerably tighter. It does a Half Monty on us, forgetting *The Full Monty*'s essential humanity and charm.

The compensations are the pleasures of the smartly directed, fired-up performances, though Blethyn's is surely a yard or so over the top. She is the mother from hell, quite capable of sacrificing her daughter's sanity for the attentions of the sleazy promoter but she is finally crestfallen when he cruelly dispenses with her favours. But here, as elsewhere, the film could never be accused of pedestrian acting.



Jane Horrocks, 'admirable' as introspective singer

US Republicans stage retreat while Clinton, buoyed by mid-term polls, spurns Paula Jones deal

Impeachment drive falters

Martha Kettle in Washington

THE dramatic turnaround in President Bill Clinton's political fortunes became apparent yesterday when the Republican chairman of the House of Representatives judiciary committee drastically curtailed his impeachment inquiry, and Mr Clinton's lawyers spurned a reduced settlement offer from Paula Jones.

Less than 48 hours after a five-seat swing to the Democrats in congressional elections overshadowed partisan argument about Mr Clinton, the judiciary committee's chairman, Henry Hyde, announced a fast-track impeachment inquiry timetable in which the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, would be the only significant witness.

Speaking at a hastily arranged press conference in his Chicago constituency, Mr Hyde said he wanted "to end this matter as soon as possible" and intended to keep his "new year resolution" to conclude the inquiry before the start of 1999.

Mr Starr "is anxious to testify" and will give evidence to the committee in two weeks' time, on November 19, Mr Hyde announced. An unnamed legal expert would also give evidence on the law concerning testimony given under oath, similar to that given by Mr Clinton in the Jones case and to Mr Starr's grand jury of the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

The announcement means neither Mr Clinton nor Ms Lewinsky, the former White House intern with whom the president has admitted an "inappropriate relationship", will be called.

Before the elections, there was widespread speculation that Republicans would also try to call Mr Clinton's secretary, Betty Currie, his adviser



The Paula Jones (left) suit is collapsing, as Henry Hyde (right) and the Republicans backtrack on impeachment

Bruce Lindsey and his friend Vernon Jordan, with Democrats summoning Ms Lewinsky's former friend Linda Tripp and the right-wing conspirator Lucianne Goldberg, but yesterday's announcement ruled this out. Mr Hyde claimed the elections, in which the Republicans had banked on increasing the House of Representatives by the outgoing House of Representatives — the House elected on Tuesday does not take office until January. Senate leaders would then negotiate an immediate end to the

process, possibly with a formal congressional censure motion against Mr Clinton. "If the bill of impeachment were to pass, then I think serious discussions of the nature you're suggesting might take place with the Senate," Mr Hyde said yesterday. "But I think it's, right now, premature."

Mr Hyde said the committee would ask the president whether he would "admit or deny" a series of facts about his sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky. If Mr Clinton



The Paula Jones (left) suit is collapsing, as Henry Hyde (right) and the Republicans backtrack on impeachment

agrees, Mr Hyde said, "he will allow us to narrow the issues and bring this matter to a close more quickly."

The new confidence in the White House is such that few observers expect Mr Clinton's lawyers to agree. There is speculation Mr Clinton and his wife Hillary may refuse even the censure compromise. Mr Clinton repeated his public plea to the newly elected Congress to refocus on policy issues such as health and pensions. "The American people sent us a message that

would break the evidences of anybody who was listening," he said at the White House after a meeting with Democratic congressional leaders.

Mr Clinton's lawyers yesterday rejected a \$950,000 (\$565,000) offer from lawyers for Paula Jones to settle her sexual harassment suit. The president's lawyer, Robert Bennett, was said to be in favour of acceptance, but it is clear the White House no longer feels under pressure.

Jones lawyers quit, page 10

Judges confirm Hindley's 'whole life' sentence

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THREE of Britain's most senior judges yesterday rejected Myra Hindley's appeal against her "whole life" sentence and confirmed that she must spend the rest of her days behind bars.

But two of the three judges voiced concerns about the way the Home Secretary has used his powers to leave Hindley and 23 other "life must mean life" prisoners without hope of release.

Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, indicated in his judgment on Hindley's appeal that he would have preferred a system under which the Home Secretary did not fix any term but instead reviewed the possibility of release every five years. Hindley, who is now 56 and has spent 32 years in prison for the moors murders, was told straight away that she must spend the rest of her days behind bars by the governor of Highpoint Prison, Suffolk, where she is held. It

is believed that prison staff were on standby to help her cope with the news.

The Court of Appeal's ruling said that as a woman in her fifties she could well face another 30 years in prison and confirmed that the Home Office is considering facilities for geriatric inmates. Her lawyers were given leave to take her case to the Lords.

Lord Longford, a longtime champion of her cause, said he was disappointed by the ruling but was convinced that one day she would be freed.

"The Lord Chief Justice has said that life should never mean life, that the prisoner should never be told that they will have to die in prison. Any decent Christian who knows anything about it knows that no woman or man should be kept in prison for 30 years. No-one thinks Myra is dangerous. I hope she will be released in your lifetime. I'm 52, so it probably won't be mine," said Lord Longford.

But Anne West, the mother of the murdered child Lesley Ann Downey, said: "This is one day I have been waiting

for. I've been worried for the last three weeks and it's such a relief."

Lord Woolf, sitting with Lord Justice Hutchinson and Lord Justice Judge, ruled it was lawful for the Home Secretary to use his judgment in setting "life must mean life" sentences but upheld a previous court ruling that there also had to be the possibility of release on licence in exceptional circumstances.

Lord Justice Judge said the first full confession by Hindley in 1997 had revealed "a much greater level of involvement" with her co-defendant Ian Brady than she had previously admitted. In 1990, the then Home Secretary, David Waddington, increased her 30 year sentence to "whole life". Hindley was not told of the decision until 1994. It has since

been confirmed by Michael Howard and Jack Straw.

"Given the appalling circumstances of these offences and her role in them, the natural life sentence was now justified," said Lord Justice Judge.

A statement on behalf of Hindley by her solicitors, Taylor Nichol, highlighted the reservations of the two judges.

"Lord Woolf went as far as to say that he interpreted the Home Secretary's decision to impose a whole life tariff as not meaning that at all but rather as having no fixed tariff, with Ms Hindley able to have regular reviews."

Her lawyers were disappointed that the appeal court accepted the 1987 confessions as sufficient reason to increase her sentence.

What The Papers (almost) Say

Janine Gibson
Media Correspondent

THE highly respected newspaper review series, *What The Papers Say*, yesterday emerged as the latest victim of the BBC's increasingly embarrassing Mandelson memo.

The programme's team have battled with BBC management all week in what insiders call a "ludicrous" dispute over tomorrow's edition, in which they intended to discuss the issues of press ethics arising from the "outing" of the Trade and Industry Secretary on Newsnight last Tuesday.

The 10-minute show has changed its script time and again. At least two versions have been recorded in an attempt to get round the BBC's blanket ban on any reference to Mr Mandelson's private life.

"outed" Mr Mandelson on Newsnight.

Makers of the review programme, which has run for 42 years, are believed to have been told they cannot make reference to the Newsnight incident, although it was widely reported in the press.

One insider said: "It is ludicrous that a programme of such renown as *What The Papers Say* is hampered in its discussion of press ethics in this case. It's called *What The Papers Say*, not *What The Papers Should Say*."

The guest presenter of this week's edition, Observer political commentator Andrew Rawnsley, said: "The blanket nature of the ban clearly creates difficulties in discussing the ban itself and the newspapers' reaction to it."

He added: "I do remark in the script that a lot of the press used the Matthew Parris incident as an excuse to write about Peter Mandelson's private life. The irony is that the BBC's ban gave the press a further excuse to write about it."

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There were reports yesterday that during his interview by police Ron Davies (above) was so emotional they considered calling a doctor

PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

What did Ron Davies tell the police, and just what did the police tell Tony Blair?

WILL Woodward

RON Davies has described the events which led up to his robbery as "a moment of madness". Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, says the details of what happened to Mr Davies last Monday night in Brixton and on Clapham Common are "baffling".

But the weirdness did not end when Mr Davies walked through the door of Brixton police station. Ten days on, the Davies affair is still unresolved and unclear, not least because the police are unhappy about the story the former Welsh Secretary told them.

Mr Davies arrived at Brixton police station at 10.26pm on Monday, about an hour after he said he was robbed at knifepoint. Mr Davies has admitted being in an emotional state. There were reports yesterday that during his interview by police Mr Davies had been so emotional they considered calling a doctor. It was said he was "crying hysterically" and "bursting up in his chair". It was alleged that he admitted to have been cruising on Clapham Common, but that allegation is not believed by other sources.

Mr Davies left Brixton police station at about 2am and returned to his home in Battersea.

But it was not just Mr Davies's behaviour that made alarm bells ring in the heads of the officer on duty at Brixton police station. Here was a cabinet minister in trouble, claiming he had been robbed at knifepoint. There were several versions of the night's events and he clearly was not telling the full story.

Superintendent Simon Foy, the senior officer at Brixton,

was contacted. Very quickly so too was the deputy Metropolitan police commissioner, John Stevens. The commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, was on holiday.

Home Office sources say any police incidents involving a cabinet minister are reported to the Home Secretary as a matter of course.

Jack Straw was in meetings early on Tuesday morning. But "shortly after" 10am, Mr Stevens telephoned him and told him what had happened at Brixton police station just a few hours earlier.

Mr Straw immediately telephoned Jonathan Powell, the Prime Minister's chief of staff.

At 10.15am Mr Stevens came to the Home Office for a routine meeting with minis-

ters. He was said to be a pimp or prostitute, the Guardian has established.

Downing Street said yesterday it was aware of "rumour" surrounding the robbery. It was also aware of alleged "discrepancies" in Mr Davies's evidence to police. The only background disclosed by the Home Office was "that there had been a crime against Ron and it occurred after Ron had been out on Clapham Common and had met a black male".

A senior government source believed Mr Davies was asked if he had any relevant information on Mr Davies's background.

"Everyone knows what Clapham Common means and of course we would immediately want to find out if there

only did Mr Davies not contact Number 10 until "shortly before" 11am, he only did so after being contacted by Downing Street.

A message was left that when Mr Davies checked in to his office he should come to see the Prime Minister.

Mr Blair's spokesman said Mr Davies telephoned Number 10 shortly before 11am and said he wanted to see Mr Blair.

At 11am Mr Davies met Mr Blair and Mr Campbell. Mr Powell may also have been present.

All sides insist Mr Davies offered his resignation rather than having it forced out of him.

"I realised there was going to be a feeding frenzy," Mr Davies said last week. "I discussed this with the Prime Minister and said 'look this is going to happen' and he concurred. And having also discussed it with several senior colleagues, it was my view very clearly that my position as secretary of state would no longer be tenable."

Mr Blair, although sympathetic, was irritated by Mr Davies's refusal to explain what he had been doing on Clapham Common.

But Downing Street insists it was only the information Mr Davies gave Mr Blair which led him to accept his resignation.

At 11.45am the meeting ended.

It emerged yesterday that Mr Blair asked Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, to "dig around" the incident involving Mr Davies. An investigation was launched but there was no formal report because the inquiry was "overshadowed by events", Mr Campbell said yesterday.

Mr Davies returned to the Welsh Office. He agreed with Mr Campbell the contents of his resignation letter. He then

went to Brixton police station. "When I went back to the police station I was able to give a more considered and fuller account," Mr Davies said last week.

But it is now clear that police are still not satisfied with his account and want to interview him further.

Mr Davies returned to the Welsh Office and about 3pm gave a short speech to staff saying he was resigning.

Shortly afterwards he gave a brief interview to the BBC's John Sargeant.

At 4pm, Mr Campbell announced Mr Davies's resignation and handed out an exchange of letters between Mr Davies and Mr Blair.

Last week he told journalists: "There are no salient facts in our possession that are not in yours." But it is now evident that Downing Street knew more than they were letting on.



Brixton police station: Mr Davies's statement 'set alarm bells ringing' PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE BELL

There were several versions of events and clearly Davies was not telling the full story

ter of state Alun Michael, who in a few hours time would be Mr Davies's replacement as Welsh Secretary.

He "stuck his head round the Home Secretary's door" and they had a short further discussion. Around this time Home Office permanent secretary David Omand was put in the picture.

At 10.30am Mr Powell rang back to speak to Mr Straw and the Home Secretary passed the telephone on to Mr Stevens.

Tony Blair's spokesman said yesterday that the first Downing Street knew of the incident was this brief exchange of calls.

But some time before 11am, Downing Street was aware that Mr Davies was linked with a rasta-farian and that he

is anything at all about him that indicates that."

But Mr Davies's involvement is denied by other official government sources.

Officials from Downing Street then contacted the Welsh Office to try to speak to Mr Davies. But they were told he was not in his office.

It is not clear when Mr Davies arrived at the Welsh Office on Tuesday. Some people say 9am, some 7am. But when Downing Street tried to contact him at about 10am, he was unavailable.

Downing Street sources and members of Mr Davies's camp have given the clear impression to several newspapers that he contacted Number 10 at about 9am.

Yesterday, this suggestion was shown to be false. Not

Divisive Welsh leadership battle likely as Michael agrees to stand

Raven MacAniskill, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Welsh Secretary, Alun Michael, yesterday opened a potentially messy and divisive contest when he confirmed he will stand for the Welsh assembly leadership in place of the disgraced Ron Davies.

Mr Michael appealed to Cardiff MP Rhodri Morgan and Euro-MP Wayne David to join him on a unity ticket as his deputies.

"I believe this is in the interest of the Labour Party and the unity of Wales," he told a press conference in Cardiff Bay, within yards of the site of the new Welsh assembly.

Mr Michael said: "I have always wanted to see an elected assembly bring democratic accountability to the government of Wales. As a Welshman, I cannot think of a greater privilege than to help bring that dream to reality."

But Mr Morgan seemed set to force a contest that will effectively decide who will become the first secretary of the assembly next year.

"I was not a jersey warmer for Ron Davies and I am not a jersey warmer for Alun Michael," he said.

Peter Hain, the Welsh minister who will act as Mr Michael's campaign manager, said: "Alun Michael will



Alun Michael: call for unity ignored PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

bring to the job of first secretary the full authority of a highly regarded cabinet minister. He will be able to get the best deal for Wales."

He said the party had been through a traumatic period and expressed a hope that Mr Morgan might yet come round. "It's early days."

Tony Blair would have preferred to avoid a damaging contest, only two months after Mr Morgan fought Mr

Davies for the post, coming a close second in the constituency election, the test of popularity among activists.

The contest, which the party hopes to get out of the way before Christmas, will expose the low morale in the Welsh party, partly a fall-out of the Ron Davies saga but mainly from disenchantment with Mr Blair's government, reflected in falling membership.

Mr Morgan, a boisterous, gregarious and witty politician, has a big following in the party.

Mr Michael, by contrast, is portrayed as dull, having been plodding safely but steadily up the Westminster ladder.

In an early taste of the personal in-fighting ahead, a friend of Mr Morgan described Mr Michael as "not so much having a year planner in his office but a career planner".

He added that Mr Michael not only "wants to be parachuted into Wales but wants a return ticket", a reference to the widespread belief that Mr Michael was never enthusiastic about devolution, would have preferred to remain at Westminster and would seek to go back eventually to London.

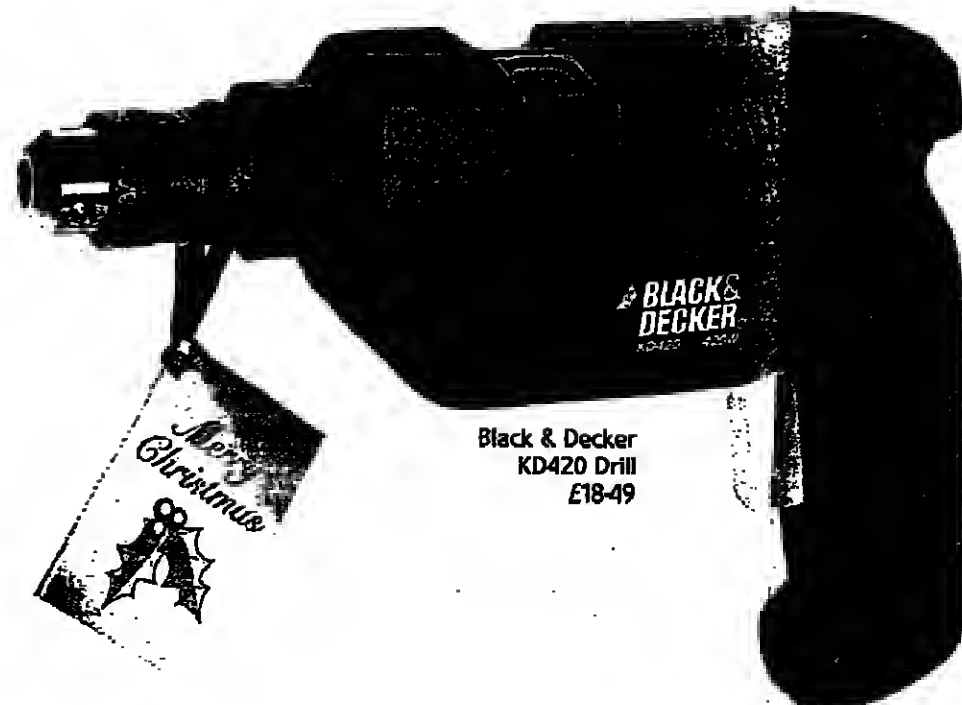
The contest forces the battered Welsh party to choose between its traditional loyalty to the leadership and reservations about a candidate, Mr Michael, seen as being imposed by London on Wales.

Mr Morgan was being portrayed in government circles as charismatic but "too skittish", too lacking in weight, to be leader.

With the backing of Mr Blair, Mr Michael is almost certain to win.

Leader comment, page 13

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(It must be Christmas.)



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Plea for help by father of murdered woman

Geoffrey Gibbs

THE father of Jennifer King, the young Bristol woman murdered only minutes away from her family home after a night out with friends, begged the cameras yesterday to make an impassioned appeal for help in tracking down his daughter's "vile" killer.

With his wife Margaret sitting beside him, Ray King choked back tears as he spoke movingly of the "gut wrenching sense of loss and grief" the couple felt when called to identify the body of the dark haired 22-year-old he called his "little summer breeze".

They remembered a smiling, loving, warm and chattering daughter, but found only a cold, battered and lifeless form. Mr King told a news conference at the community centre in Warmley, Bristol, where Jennifer had a part time job as a barmaid.

"I challenge each and every one of you out there, if you dare, to close your eyes for just a few seconds and imagine yourself being in that situation. It is your worst nightmare."

"I firmly believe now that there can be no greater sense of loss than the death of a child who had everything in the world to look forward to."

Jennifer, a receptionist with a soft drinks firm, disappeared after leaving Chasers night club in Kingswood, on the outskirts of Bristol, alone just after 2 am on Saturday.

Her partly clothed body was discovered on Tuesday afternoon in a copse only a few hundred yards from the house in Crane Close, Warmley, where Jennifer lived with her parents, brother, Andrew, and younger sister, Sarah, whom she had been planning to take on a trip to Euro Disney, near Paris.

She had been strangled and her body dumped in a child's den.

A £25,000 reward has been offered for the arrest and conviction of the killer, who police believe is probably a local man. They say he may

have been scratched and muddy after leaving the copse.

Although there were no firm sightings of Jennifer after she was seen on video leaving Chasers, officers leading the investigation are keen to identify a man and woman who were seen walking along the main road in the direction of Warmley shortly after. The woman fitted the general description of Jennifer King.

At one stage the man was said to have been walking backwards in front of the woman and appeared to be pestering her.

Mr King yesterday appealed to the public to renew their efforts in helping the police.

"Please stop what you are doing for a few seconds now and reflect. There is out there somewhere a very dangerous person who must be caught and treated accordingly. He could well offend again. Until he is caught, there will remain an overriding element of fear wherever you are."

He called on clubbers and taxi drivers to come forward if they saw anything suspicious, and suggested that some people might know of a friend or relative who had begun to act strangely since Saturday or who might have had muddy clothing or been treating scratches.

"If you know anything at all, even if you are protecting someone, please come forward and tell the police," he said at the televised conference.

"If the person who committed this vile act is out there listening or watching this, I would plead with him to look into his conscience and soul. You cannot imagine the nightmare that we are going through at this moment. Myself, my wife and family and thousands of people who knew Jenny. They are all so distraught."

A police officer will stage a reconstruction of Jennifer's last known movements on Saturday morning, to try to jog the memories of people who were at Chasers.



Raymond and Margaret King at the press conference in Bristol yesterday, after the murder of their daughter Jennifer (top right) PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS ISON



'I believe there can be no greater sense of loss than the death of a child who had everything to look forward to'

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Killer Porsche 'show off' gets youth custody

A TEENAGER who killed two elderly sisters, while "showing off" and speeding in a £45,000 Porsche he had been given for his 18th birthday, was yesterday sent to a young offenders' institution for four years.

Satinder Singh Nijer, a former Birmingham university student, looked stunned as he was sentenced at Birmingham crown court for two counts of causing death by dangerous driving.

The 19-year-old, who was also banned from driving for five years, and will have to retake his test to recover his licence - later broke down in the cells, his solicitor revealed.

Passing sentence, Judge John Warner said Nijer, of Westnashfield, west Midlands, was guilty of travelling at a "grossly excessive" speed when he knocked down and killed Winifred Carrington on her 76th birthday and her 78-year-old sister Lavinia, as they walked along a road in the village of Compton, Staffs, in February last year.

He added that the teenager's father, who had given him the red 944 cabriolet, complete with personalised number plate, just 13 days earlier, shared the blame for the tragedy.

"He may bear no legal responsibility but in my view he has a lot to answer for. If he had thought about this, he would have known this was an accident waiting to happen," the judge said.

The judge told the teenager, who ploughed into the elderly spinners as he showed two

friends his car's power during a school lunch break: "In my view, this was a bad example of dangerous driving."

"You overtook at a grossly excessive speed at upwards of 80mph in a 50mph zone on a damp road when it was plainly unsafe and you lost control."

He said he was satisfied Nijer, whom police said marked a deadly race circuit around St Edmund's Roman Catholic School in Compton, had driven too fast along the same road on the days immediately before the accident.

"The term showing off is an emotive term but has been used. I am sure you were showing your friends just what the car could do and what you could do in it during a short journey at the end of your school lunch hour."

"Not one death, which would have been bad enough, but two deaths occurred as a result of your criminal behaviour. Mercifully it would appear they did not know what had happened to them."

During the two week trial, at Stafford crown court last month, the jury heard how the sixth former lost control after speeding at up to 70mph in a 50mph zone and trying to overtake another car.

The Porsche - which had the personalised number plate SSN 15 - struck a kerb twice before veering sideways, hitting a fire hydrant, and knocking down the unmarried sisters, who lived together in Aldersley, Wolverhampton.

One was thrown into the air and the other carried along the bonnet before becoming trapped with the sports car in a hedge.

Both died instantly.

Yesterday, Judge Warner said Nijer's youth and subsequent "immaturity and lack of judgment" were mitigating factors. He acknowledged he and his family - which has since received hate mail - had been devastated by the accident, and said the teenager's education had been affected.

Roger Smith QC, defending, said Nijer was previously of blameless character and "by all accounts an admirable young man."

After the trial the youth's father, businessman Satinder Nijer, said: "Now I know I was wrong to buy it."



Satinder Singh Nijer, who ran down two pensioners



INDIGNANT at the humiliation suffered daily by thousands of his countrymen arriving in Britain by Eurostar, a senior Gaullist politician has demanded that Tony Blair find a new name for the London station that commemorates

"You will understand, I am sure, the discomfort the French feel when they are welcomed by the name Waterloo after crossing the Channel tunnel, a symbol of co-ordination and co-operation between our two nations," wrote Florent

Longuepée, a member of the national executive of President Jacques Chirac's RPR party, in a letter to the Prime Minister.

"At a time of European integration, to which I know you are attached, it seems to me more than opportune for the English to re-baptise this station under another name. I am

not asking that you strike from the annals of your country this feat of arms, merely that you transfer such a symbolic name to a less emblematic site."

Waterloo, a village outside Brussels, was the site of the Duke of Wellington's celebrated victory in 1815 over the French army led by Napoleon Bonaparte.

Although many French railway stations are named after famous Napoleonic victories, Mr Longuepé pointed out that they do not welcome visitors from the countries France defeated. "It is as if the Gare de l'Est, which serves travellers from Germany, was named the Gare de Verdun," he said. "We French do not im-

But mindful of the reputation of perfidious Albion, Mr Longuepée, who is also a Paris councillor, is keeping his powder dry. If M. Blair does not heed his request, he wrote, he will fight to have the Gare du Nord, where Eurostar

trains from London arrived and renamed the Gare de France. "That, as I am sure you are aware, is another small village in Belgium," he wrote. "But in 1793, Louis XV beat the English there."

While it was Napoleon who launched the idea of a Channel tunnel in order to invade England, it was

Longuepée said the days of such animosity should be forgotten. "At the battle of Fontenoy, the Count of Auteroche nattered the words: 'Gentlemen of England, you may take the first shot'. In 1998 it should be the memory of that courtesy we should preserve, rather than that of our confrontations."

Pay TV warning for 'all live sport and top shows'

TELEVISION viewers may soon find themselves having to pay to watch all live sports programmes and many of the top entertainment shows, Sir John Birt, director general of the BBC, has warned.

broadcasting rights over several leading sports events and amid worries that the advent of digital pay television will leave many people cut off from the best the information age can offer.

Predicting that broadcasting will one day no longer be a shared cultural experience, Sir John said it was "inevita-

He told the Guardian: "At some point in the future, high quality live sport — perhaps all of it — will be pay per view."

Pay per view television, where viewers pay to watch a specific programme or televised event, is already used by broadcasters such as Brit-

He indicated that the Government was not in a position to stop this trend, which would "bring to an end 75 years of broadcasting being a common experience for people". Although more material would be on offer with

are likely to cost increasingly large amounts of money. Watching television had been "modestly costed" in the past and people had become used to watching this "terrific experience" a lot for very little.

Sir John's views come amid the growing expectation in broadcasting that the rights to the most popular pro-

Television producers running, and in many cases owning, independent television companies, would try to "extract the maximum value from the consumer".

are Hat Trick (makers
Have I Got News For You
Ginger Media (part-owned
Chris Evans and maker of T
Friday), Bazalgette. Mento
Baraclough Carey, TalkBac
Tiger Aspect and Planet 24.

The BBC is concerned that
it could be cast in the role
midwife to successful private
programmes, funding the
through their development

The Government has tried to limit this process by listing national sporting events.

Sir John said the Government must ensure that major sporting events were available on free television, if only in recorded formats after the event. But taking similar action over entertainment

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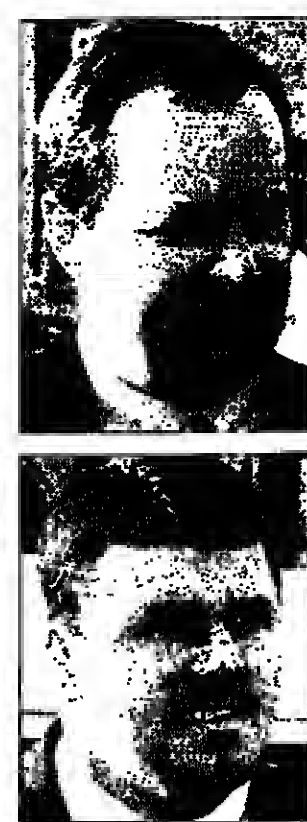


Cruel: Andrew White, trainer PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEPHENS

White told one handler: 'If you are instructed to string your dog up, you string him up. If you don't like it, you can have your dog put down'.



The Essex dog unit at Sandon where constables Boorman (top) and Hopkins (below) compelled other handlers to abuse dogs



SANDON PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN DEMPSEY

Four months in prison for cruel police dog handlers

Heaven Carter

A POLICE sergeant and constable who ordered dog handlers to hang their animals by their leads, then kick and punch them, were given four month jail sentences yesterday for breaching the Protection of Animals Act.

Handlers at the Essex police dog unit in Sandon had been told to dominate their German shepherd dogs by suspending them over fences or walls by their choke leads

and kicking or punching them. One dog, a four-year-old called Acer, died of internal bleeding when his liver ruptured after a beating in November last year.

Andrew White, a sergeant aged 37, who was head of training at the dog unit, was found guilty of seven charges of causing other officers to cruelly ill-treat police dogs, and instructor Kenneth Boorman, a constable aged 45, was found guilty of six similar charges. Both men were given jail sentences by Chelmsford magistrates court, but were

released on bail pending an appeal against their convictions and sentence. Another instructor and constable, Stephen Hopkins, aged 42, was found guilty of one charge of causing a handler to ill-treat a dog and was ordered to do 200 hours community service and pay £1,000 towards costs. Graham Curtis, a 43-year-old inspector, was found not guilty of three charges of failing to issue an order to prevent unnecessary suffering to animals.

Kevin Gray, the magistrate, told Boorman and White:

"The method you used can only be described as brutal. I would be failing in my duty if I did not reflect the seriousness of these offences by passing custodial sentences."

The court had heard how the officers encouraged dog handlers to be cruel and were abusive to anyone who dared challenge their methods. One handler described how dogs were swung around in the air by their leads "helicopter style".

Another had been told by White: "If you are instructed to string your dog up, you

string him up. If you don't like it, you can have your dog put down."

After the beatings, the dogs were subdued, their tongues would turn blue and their eyes would bulge.

When interviewed by police investigating allegations of cruelty, White, Boorman and Hopkins made statements in which they appeared to accept that the hanging method was justified if a dog attacked its handler or seemed about to attack.

The cruel training methods were condemned by dog

breeders yesterday. "I have heard a lot of people say they won't give German shepherds to the police any more after hearing about this cruelty," said Dorothy Beach, a former Crufts judge of alsatians. "People used to be proud to put their dogs into the police, but if they don't do something about this, they won't get any more dogs."

David Alcock, secretary of the German Shepherd Club of the UK, said: "Beating the dog makes it cowed, which makes the handlers think it's willing, but in fact they are doing

irreparable damage to its working abilities in the future. The dog will be afraid of its handler, instead of trusting and respecting him, and when the dog encounters a criminal it will react with fear, instead of confidence."

Andy Mitchell, RSPCA chief inspector, said: "It is a horrific method of disciplining any animal. The dog would be nervous and would start reacting nervously around the handler, and when you consider the situations a dog and handler go into, the last thing you want

is a dog that doesn't have a bond of trust with you."

An Essex police spokesman said: "The death of a dog was a matter of great regret within Essex police. The dog unit has a long and proud record of public service. As a result of this investigation, Essex police has reviewed the monitoring of its dog training, to ensure it is always conducted in accordance with the official police manual. The matters referred to in court will now be considered by the chief constable under disciplinary regulations."

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OUT TODAY

OUT TODAY

OUT TODAY

OUT TODAY

Scientists learn from dead parrot

Tim Radford
Science Editor

It fell off its perch 70 million years ago. It became an ex-parrot even before the dinosaurs became ex-dinosaurs. Nobody knows the colour of its feathers, what it ate, or whether it talked. But they know it was there. The reason is it left its bottom jaw in the upper cretaceous rocks of Nebraska County, Wyoming — one little beak that became a silent testament to the odd fact that, while dinosaurs, maiasaurs, platosaurs, ankylosaurs and other great reptilians plodded over the landscape, parrots perhaps perched on their shoulders.

The "toothless avian dentary symphysis" or fused jawbone, is the only one of its kind, according to a report in Nature today.

"This symphysis appears to represent the oldest known parrot and is, to my knowledge, the first known fossil of a terrestrial modern bird group from the cretaceous," says Thomas Stidham, of the paleontology museum at the University of Berkeley, California.

Water birds get covered in mud when they die, and are easily preserved. Fossil

land birds are rare finds, so this beak speaks volumes. The end of the cretaceous era was the end of the dinosaurs — marked, it is thought, by a 10-kilometre asteroid which crashed into the planet at perhaps 10 miles a second, 65 million years ago, obliterating a lot of life on Earth. But even if the dinosaurs did not survive, parrots went on perching during and after the great mass extinction.

The luckless psittacine's little fragment of discarded pecker looks as if it might have belonged to a lory — one of the brightly coloured fruit eaters — which means there might well have been plenty of flowering plants around. And if there were parrots, says Dr Stidham, then there must have been other kinds of modern birds as well.

The question is, how could something wipe out huge, muscular creatures like the dinosaurs, but leave delicate animals like birds for another 70 million years? It suggests that the last dinosaurs lived in a world very like this one. And, according to Angela Milner of the Natural History Museum, "a parrot then would have had more or less the same lifestyle as one today".

It's easy to spot the A&R man at a gig: he's the ponytailed one in a suit, at the back. His ears are filled with loo roll. What artists & repertoire men do

FridayReview page iv

Yorkshire Bank Base Rate

Yorkshire Bank announces that with effect from start of business on 6th November 1998 its Base Rate is decreasing from 7.25% to 6.75%.

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Relief flows into a black hole

POLITICS OF AID/Calls for a debt write-off have been ignored, despite the scale of the disaster, writes John Vidal

WHILE promises of relief to Honduras and Nicaragua were gathering pace yesterday, with public appeals and offers of assistance from across the world, the international community was castigated for not responding fast enough or cancelling the debts of hurricane-devastated Central American countries.

But a week after the hurricane struck, it was becoming clear that it may be beyond the ability of the international community and local governments to cope.

"With the infrastructure gone, starvation and disease approaching and hundreds of communities uncontactable, it may be weeks before needs can even be properly assessed or relief can get in," said the International Red Cross.

The Honduran government warned that the situation would swiftly deteriorate unless more international food and medicines were delivered and washed-out bridges and roads were quickly rebuilt. The country's president, Carlos Flores, said Hurricane Mitch had destroyed more than 60 per cent of the country's infrastructure, setting development back decades.

"The disaster has overwhelmed government, the military, non-government groups and civil society," said the International Red Cross, which has pledged

\$4.5 million. Food, drinking water, small power boats to reach flooded areas, medicines, blankets, water purification tablets, blood, materials for emergency shelters, helicopters, and temporary bridges were all needed just to overcome the immediate problems, said a spokesman.

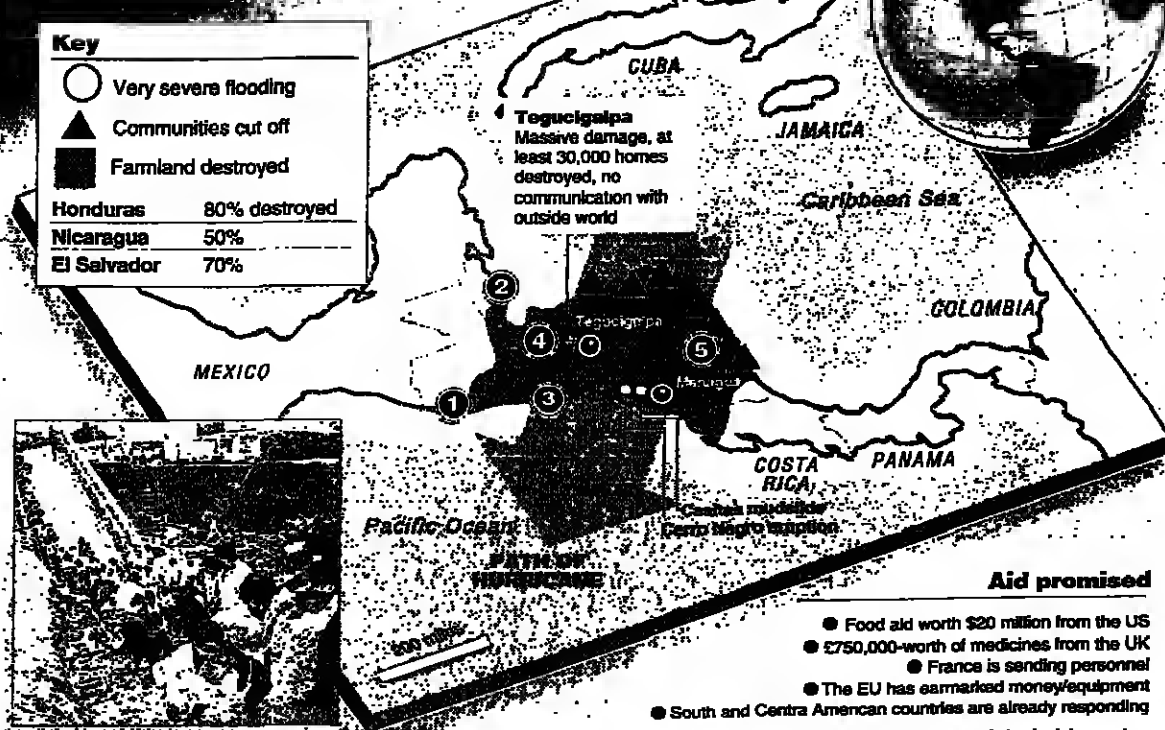
The United States pledged a major airlift to supply \$66 million worth of aid, and the European Union and other countries said they were preparing to act. France said it was sending 250 civilian and military rescue workers, and many embassies were informally landing planes and helicopters to help. Regional shipping companies offered their services for free.

The World Bank sent \$15 million to Honduras and Nicaragua for medical and immediate aid, and said it had started negotiations to

waive \$300 million already allocated for projects there to infrastructure and disaster relief work. "Let's get them back on their feet and then think about debt relief," said a spokesman in Washington.

Danger zone

Countries worst affected by Hurricane Mitch

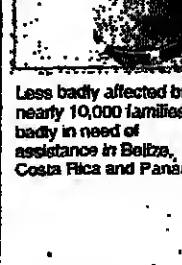


1 Guatemala 2 Belize 3 El Salvador 4 Honduras 5 Nicaragua

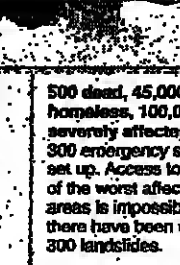
100 people dead, 50,000 severely affected, 25,000 homeless. Damage to roads and power lines is extensive leaving some major towns isolated and preventing access to many areas.



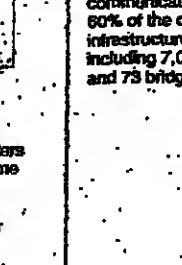
Less badly affected but nearly 10,000 families badly in need of assistance in Belize, Costa Rica and Panama.



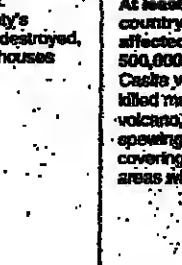
Worst affected of all the countries: 5,000 dead, 200,000 homeless, 2 million people severely affected. 55% of the land is under water, 70% of agriculture is destroyed. Capital, Tegucigalpa, is completely ruined with no external communications. 50% of the country's infrastructure is destroyed, including 7,000 houses and 73 bridges.



At least half the country severely affected, 1,300 dead, 500,000 homeless. Cattle volcano collapse killed many. Heavy volcanic ash, spewing lava and covering surrounding areas with ash.



Food aid worth \$20 million from the US. £750,000-worth of medicines from the UK. France is sending personnel. The EU has earmarked money/equipment. South and Central American countries are already responding.



Britain was criticised for only promising £750,000 worth of initial medicines and supplies. Jubilee 2000, a coalition of more than 50 development groups, charities, Church and trade union organisations calling for the elimination of Third World debt by the millennium, yesterday described the offer as "mean and inadequate".

"Honduras and Nicaragua between them pay more than \$1 million a day in debt repayments. We should be pouring money in. They owe us \$3.4 million and it is scandalous that we do not cancel that debt," said a spokesperson.

"Even before the disaster, half of Nicaragua had no access to safe water or sanitation. Eighty per cent of Honduras' income goes to pay debts.

Nothing short of an immediate moratorium on repayment is acceptable," said a Christian Aid spokesman.

A spokesman for the Department for International Development said the government was waiting to see what the needs were. "The situation is developing. When we get project proposals and when the UN assessment team has reported back, then we can respond." The Treasury said government policy was not to write off debt unilaterally and there were better ways to address disasters.

The International Development Secretary, Clare Short, writing in today's Guardian, urges a careful response: "Too often responses to disasters have been made worse by well-intentioned but uncoordinated

Search for dead hidden by landslide

NICARAGUA/Juanita Darling on the mourning for relatives buried in a mix of mud and lava

AFTER a kiss from his aunt, Isalah Vázquez, aged 12, was nailed into a gray wooden coffin by family members who, even if they counted themselves lucky, at least they knew where he was buried.

That is not true of many of the 1,200 or more victims of the Casitas Volcano landslide, which appears to be the largest single disaster caused by Hurricane Mitch. It may not be true in relation to other missing family members either.

No one knows yet how many people were killed in the mudslide, but the tragedy could account for a quarter or more of the 9,000 deaths throughout the region blamed on Mitch.

Isalah was buried just a few yards away from the sugar cane mill where witnesses said health ministry workers had buried 20 unidentified bodies a few hours earlier to prevent epidemics.

The Vázquez family farm lay in the path of the huge mudslide that began when Mitch's torrential rains broke the side of the Casitas Volcano in western Nicaragua last week. Water from the rain and the lake in the crater mixed with lava, forming a wall of mud that covered entire villages.

Mud washed down the mountain to the county seat of Posoltega, carrying trees that now lie upended in fields with their roots reaching towards the sky and bodies scraped and broken beyond recognition.

A few corpses made it to the sugar mill, but most stopped farther up the mountain in a cane field. Norberto Miranda, a 26-year-old farm worker, tried pushing through the soft mud towards the village of Los Rodríguez, where his uncles and cousins lived, but turned back. "I just couldn't do it, I kept sink-

ing," he said. "The whole family is there."

Earlier this week a revived Tropical Storm Mitch raced across the Gulf of Mexico toward southern Florida and the Florida Keys, buffeting the region with rain, wind gusts up to 50 mph and tornadoes.

The Nicaraguan president, Arnaldo Alemán, told the country that it probably never will know exactly how many people died in the mudslide. Most of the bodies that are found will never be identified. Worried about epidemics amid the devastation left by Mitch, the government has ordered bodies buried, even as the search for survivors continues.

Some have been given a Christian burial. Others will be buried. We will declare the area a cemetery."

Countrywide, the Nicaraguan government estimates that more than 2,000 people have died and that in addition 1,800 are missing.

Radio stations broadcast calls from relatives begging for information about villages made inaccessible by collapsed bridges and washed-out roads.

"This is a worse blow than what happened in 1972," Mr Alemán said, referring to the earthquake that destroyed the capital, Managua.

Both the earthquake and Hurricane Gilbert, which devastated the Atlantic coast in 1980, were localised disasters, he said. Aid could be taken to the affected area and distributed efficiently.

In contrast, Mitch caused damage throughout the country, crippling efforts to reach survivors.

"We cannot get food to people by road," said Vice-President Enrique Bolaños, who heads the National Emergency Committee. "The helicopters are the bottleneck."

Isalah's relatives hope that his brother, Isaac, aged nine, will survive. A rescue helicopter found him in rubble on Sunday and took him to a nearby hospital, where Isalah died.

"I am going to raise him," said his grandmother, Candida Morán, fighting back tears. "He is the only child left of my only daughter." — Los Angeles Times

Coast guards give up search for lost holiday schooner

AP in Miami

THE week-long search for a four-masted luxury schooner which disappeared when Hurricane Mitch hit the Caribbean was called off yesterday.

Contact was lost last Tuesday with the 262ft cruise ship Fantome, which had a British captain, Guyan March, and 30 crew on board.

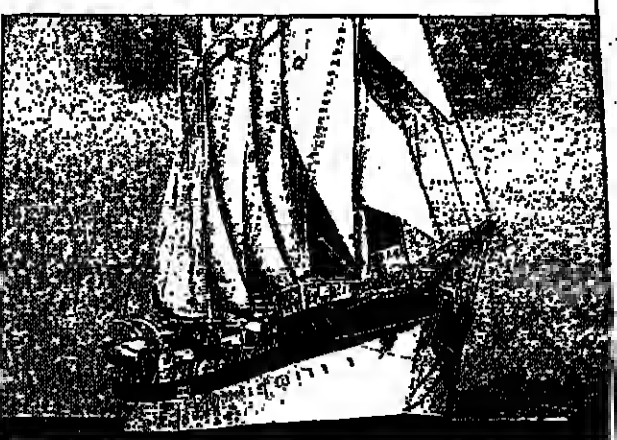
A search by the United States coast guard and the Royal Navy off the Caribbean coasts of Belize, Guatemala

and Honduras revealed no trace of the vessel.

The Fantome's last radio message said it was experiencing 115 mph winds and the ship was rolling heavily, according to officials from the ship's owner, Windjammer Barefoot Cruises.

Search crews found the first piece of debris from the Fantome on Sunday. A life raft and more life jackets were found on Monday.

As Mitch approached, Fantome had been ordered from the Honduran port of Omoa north to Belize City, where it



The Fantome, which is feared lost with 31 crew on board, safely dropped off its passengers to be flown back to Miami.

The crew stayed on the ship, planning to head north, toward Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, to get away from Mitch. But the storm changed course and the ship was caught.

News in brief

Climbdown in Anwar trial

ON THE fourth day of the trial of Malaysia's former deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, for corruption and sodomy, his defence lawyers forced a damaging admission from the chief of the country's special branch, writes John Gittings in Hong Kong.

Earlier in court Mohamed Said Anwar had claimed that his branch had investigated Mr Anwar for "sexual misbehaviour" in 1992.

But he admitted yesterday that in a report sent to the prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, a year ago, he may have said that sex charges against Mr Anwar were politically motivated.

Mohamad Said also caused a sensation by admitting that he might lie if ordered to by the prime minister — even in court.

Islamists win court victory

A BERLIN court has given Islamic fundamentalists the right to organise and conduct religious education in the city's state schools in a controversial ruling, writes Ian Traynor in Bonn.

After more than a decade of feuding between Berlin's education authorities and Islamist groups classified as extremist by Germany's

domestic intelligence service, the administrative appeals court ruled that nine organisations representing Turkish immigrants had the right to be viewed as "religious community" and oversee religious education in the city's state schools.

The verdict was denounced by mainstream and secular Turkish immigrant leaders, who fear that fundamentalists will try to exert a stranglehold on the education of Berlin's 80,000 Turkish children.

Israeli row on Wye deal

THE Israeli cabinet was locked in heated argument last night over the terms negotiated by the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, at the Wye summit for the land-for-security agreement with the Palestinians, writes David Sharrock in Gaza City.

The accord was supposed to have come into effect three days ago but has been delayed by last-minute Israeli objections. It is expected to be passed today despite headline rightwing opposition.

Meanwhile in Gaza, the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, had to return from meetings in Madrid by land from Egypt, after Israel again refused him permission to land his plane at the recently completed Gaza International Airport. It had been agreed at Wye that the airport would be allowed to open.

No third term for Yeltsin

RUSSIA'S highest court ruled yesterday that Boris Yeltsin cannot use a legal loophole to seek a third presidential term in 2000.

The ruling — combined with Yeltsin's fragile health — should encourage several leading political figures to

gear up their presidential campaign preparations.

Mr Yeltsin has hinted he will not seek re-election when his current, second, term expires, and said he was satisfied with the ruling.

But because his first term began before the current constitution was adopted in 1993, aides have argued that it should not count toward the constitutional two-term limit. — AP, Moscow

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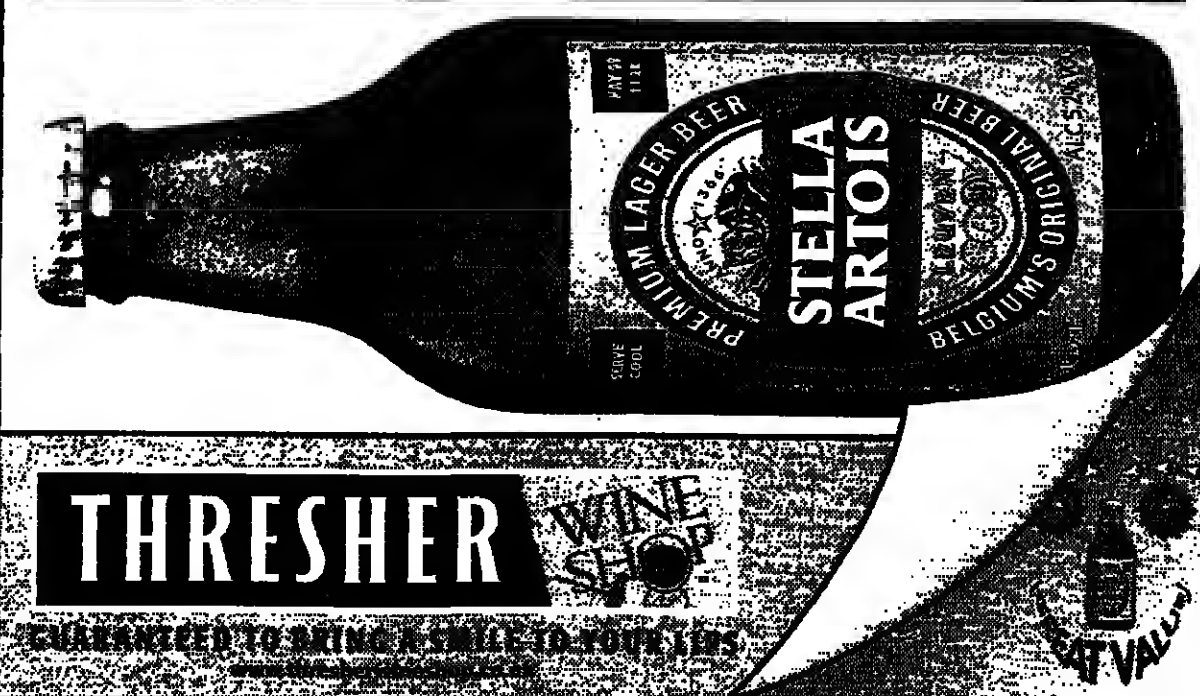
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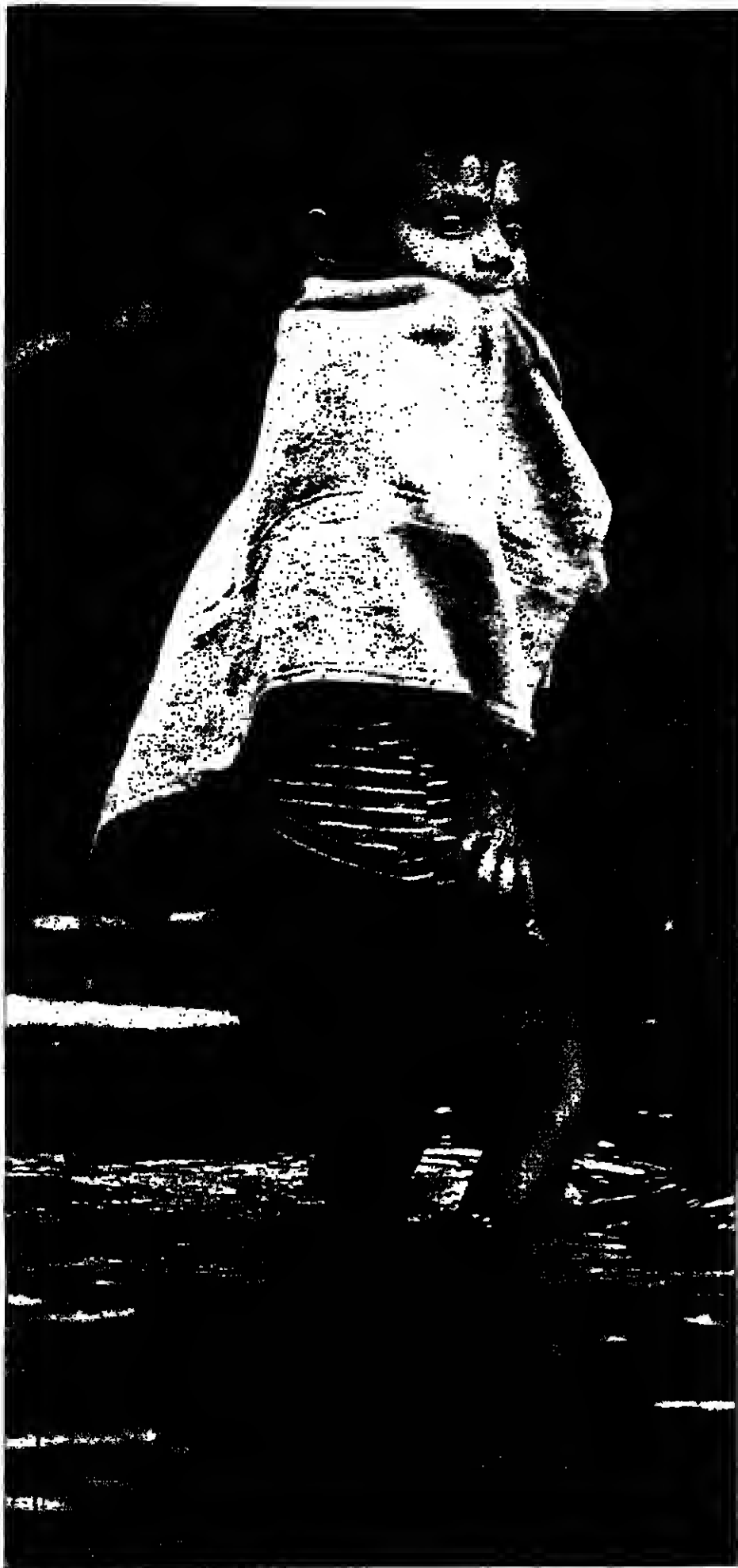
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Nation struggles to rebuild on a sea of mud



A child wades through the flooded streets of La Ceiba. Because large parts of Honduras are still cut off the final death toll is unclear. PHOTOGRAPH BY VICTOR GAVANO

HONDURAS/On a dirt road at La Piramide, Phil Gunson witnesses apocalyptic scenes as a population fights to get back on its feet

THE 100ft-wide torrent of water that swept down this mountain snapped Honduras in two. What was once a bend in the two-lane, metalled road that winds through the pine-clad mountains separating the capital Tegucigalpa from the main ports on the Caribbean is now an immense chasm.

The road was the country's commercial backbone, the steady flow of trucks carrying everything from oil to groceries. Now the traffic has been replaced with a pathetic file of people laden with sacks and suitcases struggling across the slippery sides of the crater.

The scenes along the highway as it leaves Tegucigalpa for the north are apocalyptic. Hillsides where dozens of families once lived have been sliced away, burying victims under tons of rock and dirt.

"You see that bend in the river," said Sean Hawkey of the Irish volunteer organisation Apso, pointing to a couple of acres of flat land beside the Rio Choluteca. "That was once covered in houses."

Not a plank remains — it is as if the community had never existed. The statistics suddenly begin to make sense: 6,500 dead, 11,085 missing, almost 2 million injured.

Bulldozers work into the night attempting to fill the hole in the highway, which

the minister of foreign co-operation, Moises Starkman, says "will be open in two or three days", allowing the country to begin the huge task of economic reconstruction. It seems a hopelessly optimistic timetable.

On a nearby hilltop, uniformed guards with shotguns and assault rifles are guarding a valuable cargo. With hundreds of thousands of people close to starvation, frozen chickens have become the equivalent of gold bullion.

With thousands close to starvation, frozen chickens are the equivalent of gold bullion

A pistol at his hip, Jorge Pérez, a former army lieutenant, gazes unenthusiastically at what is now the only overland route between the country's two main cities — a rutted dirt track rapidly turning into a muddy swamp littered with trapped vehicles.

A hundred feet below us a Honduran Red Cross lorry is slowed across the track, almost blocking it. "It's taking up to three hours to get our pickups through," Mr Pérez said.

The Alcon food corporation is trying to keep its supply lines open by shuttling the frozen chickens by pickup from one refrigerated container lorry to another along the fast deteriorating track.

One overloaded vehicle became so embedded the driver had to escape through the window.

Mr Pérez says of the storm: "I lost my house in Tegucigalpa. The landslides took my wife's mother's house as well, and everything she had. But, thank God, the family is okay."

On Wednesday bodies were still being pulled from the mud in Tegucigalpa. Thirteen more victims, so badly decomposed they could not be identified, were quickly buried in a common grave.

Adrian Fitzgerald, Apso's field director, says many areas are still cut off, the reason for much of the confusion over the final death toll.

"The government emergency committee told us they'd had a report of about 150 people still clinging to trees in one part of the north," he said. "But when they finally got there, not one was left."

"We really don't know what the numbers are," Colonel Rene Osorio of the national emergency committee said. "There are places we still haven't reached."

The radio carries messages

from one stricken area to another: "Will Monica Arellano please urgently contact her sister in Tegucigalpa?"

"The hospital at San Lorenzo lacks even the most basic medicines and is overwhelmed with injured people."

Tomas Restrepo, whose family owns a small business in San Pedro Sula, is desperate to reach them but his small pickup needs four-wheel-drive to negotiate the dirt road.

"I've had no contact with them for nearly a week," he said, as he pleaded for a tow. But the aid vehicle, heavily laden with food and medicines to take to the north, was in no position to help. Mr Restrepo eventually turned back.

'Some 150 people were said to be clinging to trees but rescuers found not one left'

Most people are simply unable to travel. Long queues of cars can be seen at all the capital's filling stations, and drivers are restricted to about a gallon and a half of petrol.

"The key is getting fuel into the cities," the United States ambassador, James Creagan, said. "The capital, instead of giving out aid to the north, needs aid itself."

But the ambassador does not believe the people will starve, arguing that the country has plenty of food.

"Obviously, you've got to be able to move it," he said.

Aid workers, however, are frustrated. Although the supplies for the homeless and hungry are beginning to flow, the relief effort has been hampered by lack of co-ordination.

When fuel and food starts to reach Tegucigalpa "it will be a trickle", Mr Starkman said. "But this isn't going to be the end of Honduras."

He admits the situation could get ugly, with possible civil unrest. "What we have to do is to ensure the danger does not become a reality."

Officials say 60 per cent of the country's infrastructure has been destroyed. Standing on the dirt road at La Piramide, it is easy to believe the government's claim that 40 years of development have been wiped out.

The cost of getting Honduras back on its feet is put at a minimum of \$2 billion, and voices are already being raised here to demand that the country's crippling \$4 billion foreign debt be wiped from the slate.

From January to October this year, the government paid out \$250 million in debt repayments, said Manuel Torres, a political and economic analyst.

"That's the equivalent of what is needed to repair the roads and bridges in Tegucigalpa. Churches, trade unions and many non-governmental organisations believe the debt should be turned into a reconstruction fund."

As yet, however, the government has given no indication that it is likely to take this approach.

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Jones lawyers quit case as Clinton turns tough

Martin Kettle in Washington

THE lawyers representing Paula Jones in her long-running sexual harassment suit against President Bill Clinton have become so frustrated with her reluctance to settle the case that they are throwing in the towel.

Mrs Jones's current lawyers, drawn from a firm in Dallas and the rightwing Rutherford Institute in Virginia, told her on Tuesday night that they will quit as soon as the federal appeals court rules on whether her claims against Mr Clinton can be reinstated. A decision is expected next month.

The breach came as negotiations between the Clinton and Jones lawyers broke down again yesterday, with each side rejecting the other's settlement proposal. The White House indicated privately that the president is now less interested in a deal in the light of this week's strong Democratic showing in the mid-term elections.

Mrs Jones claims Mr Clinton

invited her to a Little Rock hotel room in 1991, before he became president, and asked for oral sex. Mrs Jones says her career as a state employee suffered as a result of her refusal. The case was dismissed by an Arkansas court in April.

In telephone discussions be-

The president is less interested in a deal after the mid-term elections

tween the rival legal teams yesterday, Mrs Jones's lawyers offered to settle the case in return for \$500,000 (about \$800,000) from Mr Clinton, in addition to the \$1 million already offered to her by the idiosyncratic New York millionaire Abe Hirschfeld. That offer was immediately rejected by the president's lawyers, whose \$700,000 counter-offer was turned down by the Jones team.

This latest failure to settle

signals a more uncompromising stance by Mr Clinton, who is under less political pressure to get the case out of the way as a result of Tuesday's elections, and suggests that Mrs Jones may have missed her moment to secure a cash settlement. Even if Mrs Jones succeeds in her appeal, her legal costs now exceed anything she may win either in or out of court.

Mrs Jones's problems are intensified by the parting of ways with her lawyers. This is the second time that lawyers acting for her have decided that they have had enough of her on-off attitude towards potential settlement deals.

In September 1997, Mrs Jones balked at a \$700,000 settlement negotiated between her then lawyers, Joseph Cammarata and Gilbert Davis, and Mr Clinton's attorney Robert Bennett because the president refused to offer an apology. Mr Cammarata and Mr Davis withdrew from the case.

Mrs Jones is now losing the Dallas firm of Rader, Fisher, Campbell and Fyke which has represented her with John

Whitehead of the Rutherford Institute for the past 14 months.

The two attorneys who have been most involved, Donovan Campbell and James Fisher, have become frustrated with Mrs Jones's inconsistent instructions. At the heart of the dispute is the influence exerted over their client by her husband Stephen Jones and her media adviser Susan Carpenter McMillan, both of whom are encouraging Mrs Jones to hold out for a higher deal.

Mr Campbell took on the appeal on condition that Mrs McMillan was no longer involved. After Mrs McMillan resumed her public role as Mrs Jones's adviser in September, Mr Campbell handed the case to Mr Fisher. Mrs Jones then hired Mrs McMillan's husband, who is also a lawyer, to represent her in negotiations with her other attorneys.

The event which appears to have precipitated the latest breach was a highly publicised meeting between Mrs Jones and Mr Hirschfeld in Washington last weekend.



Paula Jones's lawyers are fed up with her on-off attitude towards a deal and her legal fees may exceed any settlement

Military spy put on ice begins to turn up the heat on France

Details are emerging of the secret life of Major Pierre Bunel and why he betrayed Nato to the Serbs. **Jon Henley** reports in Paris

HE IS 46 years old, stocky, bespectacled, unremarkable. Army colleague describes him as a gifted intelligence specialist, a touch pompous, an outstanding linguist, prone perhaps to arrogance. It may be significant that most officers who graduated with him from France's elite Saint Cyr military academy in 1973 have since made colonel. Pierre-Henri Bunel is still a major.

Today, Maj Bunel is in La Santé jail in Paris, accused of spying. He has admitted passing to Belgrade secret documents detailing the air strikes Nato planned last month to force the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, to withdraw Serb forces from Kosovo and end the persecution of the ethnic Albanian population.

His case is striking, not only because he attempted to derail the West's efforts to halt another Balkan blood-bath. It provides further confirmation of a long-held belief in Washington and London that the French military cannot be trusted when it comes to dealing with the Serbs. Attached to France's 40-strong Nato delegation in Brussels since mid-1996, Maj Bunel was head of personal staff to its senior military adviser, General Pierre Wiroth. He had access to a great deal of classified Nato intelligence and in four meetings between July and October this year he gave much of it to a colonel in the Serbian army intelligence service, Jovan Milanovic.

According to an account of his interrogation last week by the DST French counter-intelligence service, obtained by Le Monde, Maj Bunel first met his handler in a Serb restaurant in Brussels. In a lengthy second meeting at Col Milosevic's home, he answered questions about "the number of planes to be used in air strikes, their dates, the location and nature of the targets selected by Nato, and the nature of a possible deployment of

ground forces in Kosovo". In the pair's final meeting on October 1, Maj Bunel handed over a 25-page copy of the operational orders for an attack — a detailed outline of "the type of operation planned, the chain of command and the decision-making process".

He told the DST that he had acted alone, out of sympathy for the Serb cause. The DST report concluded he also had "an ambition to play an important role in resolving an international crisis, and an ambiguous attraction for the world of intelligence".

But there is much that is odd about French reaction to his arrest. The defence minister, Alain Richard, and the foreign minister, Hubert Vedrine, while describing the incident as "deeply regrettable" and "an act of treason", said the information passed to the Serbs could not have endangered the planned air strikes.

The DST report also contradicts official statements that Maj Bunel had no undercover training, noting that after working as an Arab and English interpreter in the Gulf war, he worked in intelligence in Bosnia in 1996, and was rewarded with the Legion of Honour.

Finally, the DST account stresses that his activities were uncovered by United States counter-intelligence, whereas the official Paris line is that French military intelligence unmasked him.

While the scandal has prompted Mr Vedrine, General Philippe Morillon, the former commander of United Nations peacekeeping forces in Bosnia in 1992-93, and the prime minister, Lionel Jospin, to repeat public denials that Paris harbours any pro-Serbian bias, others could be forgiven for thinking otherwise.

The relationship between the two countries dates back to the first world war, when the French navy saved the remnants of the Serb army after its long and heroic retreat. President de Gaulle

always refused to visit Josip Tito's Yugoslavia because Tito had ordered the execution of Drazen Mihailovic, the Serb anti-communist resistance leader who had studied with De Gaulle in Paris.

Years later, President Francois Mitterrand declared: "France will never be anti-Serb". And in 1994, after what many in the French elite considered the premature recognition of Croatia and Slovenia by Germany, a retired French general, Pierre-Marie Gallois, wrote to Radovan Karadzic, the then Bosnian Serb leader, saying he regretted his "inability to stand beside your soldiers in the battle you are fighting in the name of our common cause — the right of nations to reject German imperialism".

The French commander of UN forces in Sarajevo, General Jean-René Bachelet, was recalled to Paris a year later for criticising the Dayton peace accords, saying they forced the Serbian population "to choose between the suitcase and the coffin". Then last December Mr Richard, called the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in The Hague a "show court", prompting the trial's chief prosecutor to retort that indicted war criminals felt "completely safe in the French sector".

Finally, this summer, French authorities recalled Major Hervé Gourmelon from Bosnia, after well-documented reports from Washington that his frequent secret contacts with Mr Karadzic had forced Nato to abort an imminent mission to arrest the former Serb leader. A subsequent French investigation cleared Maj Gourmelon of serious wrongdoing.

Major Bunel could have been acting simply out of bitterness at a long-delayed promotion.

But despite the public protestations of French politicians and the firmness towards Serbia shown by President Jacques Chirac, his action can only tarnish France's already dubious reputation in former Yugoslavia.



Pierre-Henri Bunel, pictured in Saudi Arabia in 1990, where he worked as an Arabic and English interpreter during the Gulf war

Anti-abortion veteran hunted over shooting

Michael Ellison in New York

A MAN nicknamed Atomic Dog was being sought last night in the hunt for the killer of a doctor who performed abortions.

James Kopp, an aggressive anti-abortion campaigner, is thought to have last been sighted jogging in the affluent suburb of Buffalo, west New York state, where Dr Barnett Slepian was shot dead in his home two weeks ago by a single sniper's bullet.

"We don't know where he is," Bernard Tolbert, an FBI agent, said. "We are looking for him everywhere we can." Mr Kopp is being sought as a material witness rather than a suspect in the killing, the fourth attack in as many years on doctors in Canada and New York State.

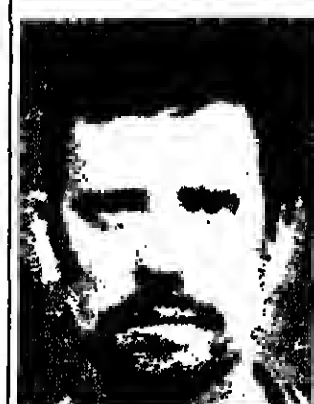
His black Chevrolet Cavalier was spotted several times in Amherst, on the outskirts of Buffalo, in the weeks before Dr Slepian was killed. Other than issuing a photograph of the 44-year-old from Vermont, investigators revealed few details about Mr Kopp.

He is thought to be a foot-loose campaigner who moves around the United States joining increasingly tense protests outside abortion clinics. One of his several arrests came in Atlanta in 1988 when there were huge demonstrations at the time of the Democratic Party national convention. His sobriquet Atomic Dog, investigators say, links him to the violent fringe of the anti-abortion movement.

The so-called Army of God has claimed responsibility for attacks such as the bombing of an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, in which an off-duty policeman was killed earlier this year.

The group has issued a manual which gives advice on attacking clinics and making plastic explosives. The handbook lists those devoted to halting abortions and includes Atomic Dog in the thanks section.

Mr Kopp's last known address was in St Albans, Vermont, where he stayed as the guest of anti-abortion activists who tried to shut down



James Kopp, aka 'Atomic Dog'. Police think he can help catch doctor's killer

two abortion clinics eight years ago. The couple's son said yesterday that Mr Kopp was a "really nice guy" who did odd jobs around the house in lieu of rent.

"The focus of his life was the anti-abortion movement," said the 20-year-old shipping clerk. "He was known among these people as Atomic Dog."

A doctor in the Buffalo area was threatened in a telephone call to a Canadian newspaper a week after Dr Slepian's murder. The caller was thought to be a man who had left a poster of Dr Slepian with the words Jew and Killer scrawled across it in a police station the day before.

Nasa is over the moon with Glenn

Julian Borger in Washington

WHEN the crew of the Discovery shuttle returns to earth tomorrow, Nasa's hierarchy will fetter one of the most successful missions in space. In only nine days the astronauts have inspired the media's rediscovery of space.

John Glenn's second venture into the cosmos has brought glamour to the routine of the Shuttle programme, whose only significant publicity had been disastrous — the Challenger explosion in 1986.

The veteran astronaut and senator, aged 77, has been a prime-time television fixture, floating good-naturedly in front of the cameras, charming the nation with old-fashioned folksy banter, urging Americans to vote, and on Wednesday night joking with the TV comedian Jay Leno on the Tonight Show.

Earthbound politicians have been queuing to bask in the Glenn feel-good factor.

Yesterday he heaped some of it down in a chat with Vice-President Al Gore, warning up for his presidential campaign.

The on-camera bonhomie, 343 miles above earth, is far more important to Nasa than the results of the ageing-in-space experiments conducted by Mr Glenn.

What really counts is Nasa's appeal for extra funding for its bid to build a space station with the Russians, starting on November 20. As Russia is having severe problems funding its part of the project, Nasa desperately needs a sympathetic Congress.

Mr Glenn did his part during a press conference from space yesterday, saying: "I proposed we double Nasa's budget over the next four-year period when I was still there in Washington and I think that's something we should be working toward, because the programme is so valuable."

The flight commander, Colonel Curtis Brown, has been overshadowed by the space legend, and it showed on the Tonight Show on Wednesday night. Mr Leno asked whether Mr Glenn kept telling the shuttle crew "how tough it was in the old days, how cramped it was, how small it was, how lucky you young punks are?"

"Only when he's awake," Colonel Brown shot back.

UN war crimes team barred from entering Kosovo



Louise Arbour (left) and Gabrielle Kirk McDonald of the war crimes tribunal criticise Yugoslavia's refusal to co-operate

Stephen Bates in Brussels

AFRESH clash between the government of the Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic and the United Nations Security Council loomed last night as prosecutors from the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague were denied visas to launch an investigation into alleged atrocities in Kosovo.

A team of 12 investigators, headed by the chief UN war crimes prosecutor, the Canadian lawyer Louise Arbour, had been due to fly to Belgrade today before going to Kosovo to examine claims of mass murders including

summary executions, wanton destruction and plundering of the province.

Instead Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, the US president of the tribunal, was angrily complaining to the Security Council last night that its mandate was being willfully blocked by the Serb regime.

"This conduct is a further example of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's utter disregard for the norms of the international community," she said.

"Essentially it has become a rogue state, one that holds the international rule of law in contempt. It is clear to me that I have an obligation, now that the prosecutor has reported non-compliance,

to bring this matter to the Security Council."

The tribunal applied for visas three weeks ago. It was told by the Yugoslav embassy in The Hague only on Wednesday night that the group could visit Belgrade, but would not be granted access to Kosovo. Ms Arbour told a press conference:

"I expect to be granted unimpeded, unfettered access to Kosovo as I have requested. My position is supported by several Security Council resolutions."

The block on access is the first challenge to the UN's authority since Mr Milosevic backed down three weeks ago in the face

of the threat of Nato air strikes and agreed to reduce troop levels in Kosovo. It has been estimated that up to 300,000 ethnic Albanians have been made refugees during this year's campaign in the province by Yugoslav armed forces and police.

Last week Zoran Knezevic, Yugoslavia's justice minister, claimed: "The Hague tribunal has no place in Kosovo." He added that access would only be granted to make the international community "better acquainted" with the situation there.

A Tribunal spokesman said: "This is a direct challenge not only to us but to the Security Council."

صكنا من الامم المتحدة

Christian Jelen

In defence of the republic

FROM time to time one comes across a journalist who is passionate about ideas and pre-occupied by something that renders him indignant. Such a journalist was Christian Jelen, who has died aged 60.

The subjects which made him angry usually involved the French Communist Party (PCF) and certain socialist, who knew that there was much that was abhorrent in the Soviet Union but affected not to know. This was a duplicity. But they also failed to understand the nature of Stalinism; there was an absence of analysis, an inability to assess. Thus Jelen had to denounce a blindness that was at once deliberate and involuntary.

Among the other topics that aroused him was racism, and most recently what he called "communitarianism," the result of well-meaning actions on the part of those who wish to accommodate immigrants, but who, through an enthusiasm for multi-culturalism, are undermining the French idea of the nation.

Jelen was particularly interested in questions of immigration since he was the son of a Polish couple who had settled in France during the 1930s. He was born in 1938 and lived in Paris. Having been educated at a commercial college, he spent his life in publishing and journalism. He worked for the three most important weekly papers, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, *L'Espresso*, and for the last 10 years, *Le Point*. He also wrote some 12 books.

One of his first investigations was into the Kravchenko affair. Kravchenko, whose book, *I Chose Freedom*, published in France in 1947, had sold half a million copies, was a French communist writer in 1946. His attack on Stalinist Russia and its concentration camps had supposedly been manufactured in

the United States and was not the product of a disillusioned refugee from the Soviet Union. What interested Jelen in this legal battle (which ended in a victory for Kravchenko) was the manner in which the supporters of Stalin's Russia made an equation between the US and Hitler, and between France and the Soviet Union.

What interested him also was the silence of the leading French intellectuals. Sartre's review of Kravchenko's book pointed out that there were concentration camps in other countries, such as Greece; the left-wing Catholics maintained that the Soviet communists were only following in the Tsarist tradition.

On immigration Jelen spoke with conviction and feeling. He recalled that when his father arrived in Paris, he had to find work or face starvation: there was no social security available for him. Nowadays there would that be progress. But his parents taught him that he had to be French, which created problems for him. He was ashamed of the accents in his parents' spoken French; he did not like it when Polish cooking was praised. Why couldn't his grandmother be famous for her stock and chipped? And his friend at school, who was of Italian origin, had been told by his parents that he should not be openly jubilant when Italian cyclists such as Bartali and Coppi won the Tour de France.

Thus certain constraints were imposed on him. It was not tyranny; it was the voluntary recognition of the nation-state of France where the immigrants lived. The alternative, as is now evident, is multi-culturalism. This, Jelen argued, could be a valid argument against the tyranny of a minority — such as the whites in South Africa — but when minorities were protected by the state, there was no reason why the fragmentation of culture should stop.

Naturally, he had much to say about the large Muslim population in France. His anxieties concerned racial and religious persecution. The argument in favour of this was that it enabled girls from Muslim families to enter the mainstream of French society and not remain cloistered in the family home. But it also meant, according to Jelen, a complete reversal of French national values. The republican model would no longer exist. It depended on the school.

Similarly, the discovery by the distinguished historian, Jacques Le Goff, that in a certain number of lycées, pupils from immigrant societies were excused from studying French history, deeply shocked Jelen. France, as the model of integration, was disappearing. He suggested that France imploding under the menace of multi-culturalism would become a France of antagonisms and social conflict.

Such views were never popular. But Jelen, who carried out much of his research in the towns and suburbs concerned, dismissed political correctness. History for him was the history of mentalities. Journalism was the attack on that which was false. Jelen, who leaves a wife and two children, will be greatly missed.

Christian Jelen, journalist and author, born August 23, 1938; died October 25, 1998

Jelen's anxieties concerned racial and religious persecution

Douglas Johnson

Christian Jelen, journalist and author, born August 23, 1938; died October 25, 1998

Christian Jelen, journalist and author, born August 23, 1938; died October 25, 1998



A family affair... Charlie Foxx and his sister Inez on stage — instantly identifiable by the evocative power of their hit song

Charlie Foxx

Diamond rings and mockingbirds

CHARLIE FOXX, who has died aged 58, and his sister, Inez, were of a popular duo on the American rhythm and blues scene of the 1960s, occupying roughly the same sector of the African-American entertainment business as Mickey and Sylvia, of *Love Is Strange* fame, or Ike and Tina Turner, whom they rather resembled. Like the Turners, too, they made one recording that both instantly identifies them and has steadily increased in evocative power.

Mockingbird, released in 1963, had a first life entirely different from Ike and Tina's *River Deep, Mountain High* (1966), being successful in the United States, where it reached the Top 10, but attracting only a specialised audience in Britain. More than three decades later, however, both songs bask in the perpetual sunlight shining on the padlock where old pop war-horses graze and grow fat on the income from re-issues, movie soundtracks and other residuals.

The two songs have something else in common: a link with childhood. *River Deep* begins with a child's rag doll, while *Mockingbird*'s nursery-rhyme lyrics and call-and-response structure betray its origin as a traditional children's playground song. The connection has quite often generated successful novelty records, such as Shirley Ellis's *The Clapping Song* or indeed Bo Diddley's *Bo Diddley*, which a folklorist would probably classify

as a variant text of the *Mockingbird* motif.

Charlie Foxx was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he and Inez, five years his junior, sang in gospel choirs and performed in local clubs. They moved to New York in 1963 and soon signed with Juggy Murray's Sue Records — yet another connection with Ike and Tina Turner, whose hit record, *A Fool in Love*, was on that label. *Mockingbird* was initially released under Inez's name, but subsequent records, like *Hi Diddle Diddle* and *Hummingbird*, gave brother and sister a joint credit.

Though *Mockingbird* made no impression on the British pop chart and its successor the following year, *Hurt By Love*, was only a minor hit, the

Foxxes had a significant underground following in Britain and were able to tour here twice in 1964, on their second visit joining a bill headed by the Rolling Stones. Later records, however, whether for Sue or Dynamo, had only fleeting success in the US and none elsewhere.

By 1968 Charlie Foxx had begun to interest himself in record production and had worked with Jerry Williams on Gene Pitney's *She's A Heartbreaker*; he would continue to produce obscure but estimable soul records. The following year he and Inez ended their professional association, just as a re-released *Mockingbird* was squawking once more in the mid-section of the British charts. The song, as it proved,

simply would not go away. In 1974 its amicable dialogue was recreated by Carly Simon and James Taylor, and in 1982 by the British group, the Belle Stars.

It periodically turns up, too, in the background of sixties-themed movies. When Charlie and Inez were honoured at a 1995 Hollywood awards ceremony by the Rhythm 'n' Blues Foundation, it was surely for that one impervious anthem: which they duly sang to a standing ovation.

Foxx leaves a wife and a son.

Tony Russell

Charlie Foxx, singer, guitarist, songwriter and record producer, born October 23, 1939; died September 18, 1998

Paul Baker

The good medicine man

PAUL BAKER, who has died aged 60, used the unlikely vehicle of pharmacy to work quietly but effectively for social change. For more than a decade he ran a chemist's shop on the deprived Buttershaw estate in Bradford, becoming a friend and, in some cases, a lifesaver of those at the bottom of society's heap.

With his wife, Maureen, he also took his talents abroad. In the 1970s the couple played a key part in establishing a collective drugs purchasing policy for Zambia. More recently, Baker worked with the World Health Organisation in Ethiopia, rebuilding pharmaceutical services after the Britum war.

None of this was apparent in the mild-mannered figure in a white coat who slipped in and out of the dispensing room to hid customers good day. Baker was happiest getting on with the practicalities of a pharmacist's job for a few days a week at a psychiatric hospital near Leeds.

Baker was born in Chapel-town, Leeds, to a Jewish family.



Baker... secular humanist

By renouncing the faith early on in favour of a carefully thought-out secular humanism. He studied pharmacy at Manchester and Liverpool, before meeting Maureen at a CND rally and uniting his serious radicalism with her Irish fire.

After a happy spell at a Leeds brewery, which sacked him after he told the managing director, "You are the man, the very fine man, who waters the workers' beer," he went on the road as a pharmaceutical rep. Work for Glaxo and other drug companies

taught him much about the trade which he later used to good effect on Buttershaw and in Zambia.

His work in Africa brought medicines within reach of ordinary Zambians and Ethiopians on an unprecedented scale and bolstered the country's governments in their dealings with drug multinationals. In Bradford, he developed a particular skill in responding to dispensing methadone to heroin addicts, combining the drug with patient attempts to befriended his customers and help them by putting his humanist beliefs into practice.

With Maureen, he was a well-known community worker in West Yorkshire. Baker was a determined campaigner against racism, often winning battles through humour and charm. A devotee of rugby league and cricket, as well as poetry and painting, he spent much time with Maureen, who survives him, as do their two daughters, son and four grandchildren.

Martin Walker

Paul Baker, pharmacist and social reformer, born December 30, 1937; died November 1, 1998

A Country Diary

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: After 10 years at The Droppings we have moved to a nice bit of medieval stone in Tetbury. But we will have an ongoing interest in the Herdwick flock, most of which will now be grazing around Woodchester Mansion — the unfinished country house, abandoned more than a century ago. The house, which lies in a deep fold below Nymptonfield, is surrounded by grazing land now owned by the National Trust.

We left a small number of animals, including Miss Figg and Miss Fiddle (both young ewes), at Upper Cam to keep the grass down, but the main group of adult ewes and the ram, Tiny Willie, were loaded into a trailer before our move. If you stop in a National Trust holiday cottage — and I would recommend such an adventure — notices often tell you that the carpets are made from the wool of Herdwick sheep. So you can see why the local trust representative was pleased to accept our flock. I imagine that by this time of autumn Tiny Willie will have started his charm offensive on the ewes as they come into season. So spring lambs ought to be included in the package for visitors to Woodchester Mansion next April.

COLIN LUCKHURST

Ajit

Kill 'em with style

THE Indian actor Ajit, who has died at the age of 76, was Bollywood's favourite villain. Casting aside old stereotypes, he developed an impressive line in charming, but ruthless, psychopaths. He freed his characters of their outward ferocity, replacing it with a human face which laughed, cracked jokes and cracked jokes. His histrionics drove home the point that a hardened criminal could look and behave like anyone on the street.

Ajit's most influential role came playing a ruthless killer called Teja in Prakash Mehra's 1973 film *Zanjeer* (The Chain). Its box office success unleashed a spate of similar roles — in Nasser Hussain's *Yashwantrao Chavan* (Procession of Memories), Chandra's *Pharm* and Manoj Kumar's *Chandigarh* (Cannabis).

In all these productions Ajit played an evil killer, completely at ease with himself and the world. Audiences loved the way he joked, played billiards and loomed round swimming pools surrounded by beautiful girls. Much of his later work was typical Bollywood pop, but audiences continued to follow the career of their favourite, cigar-smoking, underworld don.

VERY few in Ajit's 30-year career knew that his real name was Hamid Ali Khan, that he hailed from a respectable Pashtun family in Hyderabad, or that several generations of his family had served in the British Army. Indeed his father, Bashir Ali Khan, had wanted his son to follow in the family footsteps. Instead, the young man ran away with 113 rupees (barely £2) to try his luck in films.

Ajit got his first lead role in 1950 in K. Amar Nath's *Boys* (Innocent), opposite Madhubala. Ten years later, he landed the part of Durjan Singh, a faithful Hindu soldier of Prince Salim, in the K. Asif classic *Mughal-E-Azam* (The Emperor of the Moghals), generally regarded as India's best scripted historical drama. Two of his many films in the next decade — P. L. San-

toshi's *Opera House* (1961) and T. Prakash Rao's *Sorari* (Sun, 1966), were big hits, but it was not until 1978 and *Zanjeer* that he found his real home as a character.

During his career Ajit was forced to perform many stunts, and he often recalled how his life had been saved by sheer luck. "I was going upstairs with a tiger in a lift when the tiger's tail got stuck in between the doors. With the roar it froze and thought that was the end. Thank Allah, someone opened the door. It took me time to believe I was alive".

In the early 1980s a severe heart problem forced Ajit to end his career. After undergoing a bypass operation he retired to Hyderabad, though he later made occasional appearances in F. Siddiqui's *Jigar* (Dear, 1982) and Dev Anand's *Gangster* (1984).

Ajit married an Englishwoman, Gwendolyn Rita De Monte, in 1982. It didn't work and he married again, this time to a traditional Muslim. A smuggler and an underworld don on the screen, he remained in real life a gentleman and a devout Muslim. His typical dialogue delivery created famous Ajit jokes, which regularly appeared in newspapers and magazines, and are still updated on the Internet each day. He is survived by his wife and three sons.

Leila Mohan Joshi

Ajit (Hamid Ali Khan), actor, born January 27, 1922; died October 21, 1998



Hooley for Bollywood... Ajit with leading lady in the 1950s

Birthdays

Dr James Barber, political scientist, 87; Prof Lord Bauer, economist, 83; James Bowman, counter-tenor, 67; Frank Carson, comedian, 72; Colin Christopher, trades unionist, 66; Ray Coniff, songwriter, 62; Sally Field, film actress, 52; Dr Keith Griffin, economist, 60; Nigel Havers, actor, 49; Bernard Klein, designer, 76; Stephen Ladyman, Labour MP, 46;

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

VICTIM SUPPORT has asked us to make its function clear to readers who may have noted a reference to the organisation in a Letter to the Editor about Ron Davies, published on page 19, November 3, in which the writer said, "The Victim Support panel disallowed certain items of compensation..." Victim Support is a national charity which offers help to more than a million victims of crime each year, but it is not itself responsible for paying compensation to victims of crime. Victims of violent crime can apply for an award from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, which is a government agency. Victim Support can help individuals making claims, but is in no way responsible for the granting of awards or for any conditions applied. Any victim or witness seeking help or information can call the Victim Support line on 0645 303090.

IN AN article about parents who take illegal drugs, page 7, G2, November 4, we referred to the need to raise £280 a day to score a gramme of heroin. That should have been £20.

SIR GEORGE SOLT accidentally became Lord Solt in a caption on page 21, Friday Review, October 23.

READERS who thought they saw the same Austin cartoon on page 1 on successive days, yesterday and the day before, did. Sorry about that.

It is the policy of the *Guardian* to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the *Readers' Editor* by telephoning 0171

Mark McCormack, sports promoter, 68; Leonard Miall, historian, 64; David Montgomery, chief executive, Mirror Group Newspapers, 60; Mike Nichols, film and theatre director, 67; Susie Orbach, psychotherapist, 52; Amanda Popham, ceramic artist, 44; P. J. Proby, rock singer, 60; Gen Sir David Ramsbottom, chief inspector of prisons, 64; Prof Sir Martin Roth, psychiatrist, 81; Ron Saunders, football manager, 66.

DEATH NOTICES

239 5539 between 11am and 3pm, Monday to Friday. *Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 113, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk*

Death Notices

LANE, Professor John Wingrove, OBE, aged 87 years, died on 3rd November 1998, at St George's Hospital, London after a short illness. A brilliant medical and academic career, mainly at the London Hospital Medical College, culminating with a DSc in 1988. He was a member of the Royal Society and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine. He was married to Mrs. Margaret Lane (née Smith) and has three children. He is survived by his wife and three children. He was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium on 10th November 1998 at 11am. Donations to the National AIDS Trust or to the National AIDS Memorial Fund, c/o W.A. Trustees, 118 Corporation Road, Sutton, Surrey, GU1 4AT, 0181 642 6211.

MALONEY, Paul David Andrew, aged 34 years, our first son, left this life peacefully at Wigan and Leigh Hospice on November 4, 1998. He was born in Leeds, and his brother Christopher and all his family and friends will always feel his loss. Funeral service at St. Michael's Church, Wigan, on Thursday 12th November 1998 at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations to the National AIDS Trust or to the National AIDS Memorial Fund, c/o W.A. Trustees, 118 Corporation Road, Sutton, Surrey, GU1 4AT, 0181 642 6211.

SEWARD, Paul, his loving wife and family the world over regret to announce the untimely death of Paul, aged 44 on Wednesday 2nd November 1998 at Wigan and Leigh Hospice on November 4, 1998. He was born in Leeds, and his brother Christopher and all his family and friends will always feel his loss. Funeral service at St. Michael's Church, Wigan, on Thursday 12th November 1998 at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations to the National AIDS Trust or to the National AIDS Memorial Fund, c/o W.A. Trustees, 118 Corporation Road, Sutton, Surrey, GU1 4AT, 0181 642 6211.

In Memoriam

GOLBY, Alan, a beautiful man, husband, father of Vanessa, George and Edmund and friend to many. We miss you, Linda.

Births

ROBINSON-SIMPSON, Joseph, 12th October 1998 in Carlisle and Nick, 1st November 1998 in Carlisle. Both boys are healthy and happy.

Birthdays

WARRINGTON, Harry, Happy 88th Birthday. He to please your announcement telephone 071 713 4667 or fax 071 713 4707 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

Interest rate change

Allied Irish Bank (GB) announces that with effect from close of business on 5 November 1998 its Base Rate was decreased from 7.25% to 6.75% pa.

Allied Irish Bank (GB)
Bankcentre, Belmont Road
Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1SA.
Telephone: (01895) 272222



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1998, 1999 and 2000 — we were voted the No. 1 business bank in the UK.

Diary

Matthew Norman

THE Diary has admired Andrew Mackay, the anarcho-satirist who moonlights as Tory Northern Ireland spokesman, ever since he chose the week of the Stormont talks for a safari holiday in Namibia. A day after Sheila Cassidy wrote here of being tortured by Pinochet, what a treat, then, to receive a copy of Andrew's letter in the Birmingham Post on May 9, 1976. "We appear to have no proof of torture except the young lady's word," wrote the then parliamentary candidate for Stachford, ruing the recall of our ambassador from Santiago, "and I have not seen any medical evidence which could corroborate her harrowing story." My colleague Simon Bowers rings for a chat. "Who is this woman?" asks Andrew. We explain. "I've written 30,000 letters since. I can't remember every word I wrote." We'll refresh you. "I'm not remotely interested," Simon reads it anyway. "I stand by my comments made at the time," he says. Were you 14 when you wrote it? "What?" Well, it might be a forgivable outburst from a 14-year-old. "That's crass and stupid," says Andrew. "There's no point continuing this conversation." "What a talent. William Hague richly deserves him."

ANOTHER PR triumph for the BBC. After a not entirely brilliant month (the Mandelson edit being but the latest fiasco), management yesterday sought to raise staff morale from its historic low with a letter to BBC news staff all the way up the newsroom. It explained that times are hard, money is tight, management proliferates blablah blah, and would they all please, please do it off out of it (or "take early redundancy"). "The things are terrible, and there's a real buzz about the place now," says a senior news figure. "It's the buzz of the chainsaw coming to lop off our heads."

SEVERAL papers carried both adverts for Marks & Spencer clothes and news of the firm's difficulties on Wednesday. However, only the Independent had the wit to put the advert on page six, and the story ("Has M&S lost its way in the High Street?") right next to it on page seven. Hats off.

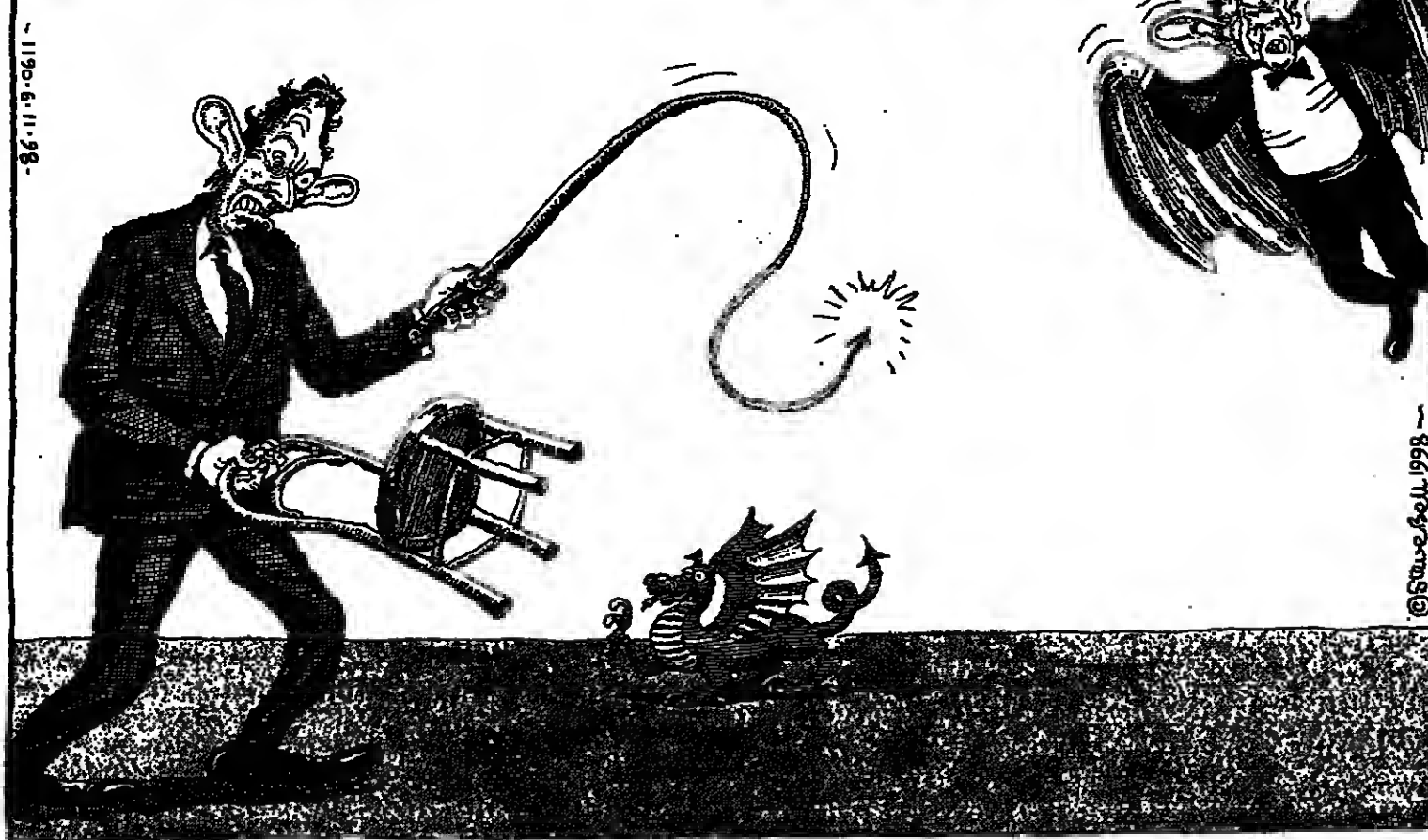
AFTER the delightful ground-breaking evening with my friend Mandy Mandelson I was distressed to learn that Mr Tony was vexed by yesterday's Diary, with its account of the event. I have it on good authority that he even accused Mandy of "selling out" by coming to dinner at my house on Friday night. In a tough, no nonsense context, the editor then accused me of "selling out", hinting at an imminent transfer to the industrial desk. Mandy, meanwhile, could be headed for Northern Ireland. I am mortified to have landed my friend in trouble with his boss, and be no doubt feels the same. We are now, Mandy and I, utterly alone, our careers hanging by a thread. Still, whatever happens, we'll always have Shepherds Bush.

WHAT'S good enough for the Trade Secretary will not do, apparently, for young Lorna Fitzsimons, the sassy MP for Rochdale. We rang her office yesterday to ask her to lunch yet again. "Well, what do you think?" replied her researcher. "We're very flattered, but we're not going to waste taxpayers' money..." We'd hardly expect Lorna to pay. "No, this call is wasting taxpayers' money. I'm very busy and so is Lorna." (Do you wonder why I've banned young people from reading this column?) You do know, don't you, we add menacingly, that we had Mandy for dinner. "I know you did. Sorry, but we're too busy for the foreseeable."

IN Great Falls, Montana, Raymond Lutz has narrowly failed to escape prosecution after being nicked doing 104 miles an hour in a 45 mph zone. Mr Lutz came up with a credible excuse ("I'd just done washing my truck and was trying to dry it off"), reports FHM magazine, but this Sheriff John Strandell wilfully chose to ignore.

WELSH DEMOCRACY

WELSH ARISTOCRACY



On the yellow line with a parking attendant who pretended I didn't exist

Decca Aitkenhead



IT IS often said that living in a big city like London can be dangerous. I fear the greatest danger is that it will turn you into a bore. London's fine claim that the capital buzzes with witty, metropolitan badinage, but in my experience, when people who live in London get together, they like nothing better than to bore on about parking.

I have spent whole evenings in the company of Londoners who talked of nothing but the timing of parking attendants' rota shifts in a particular post code, and of how many minutes you may leave your car unattended in such-and-such a street before it is clamped. My worry is that I might be starting to mistake this for interesting conversation, and am about to join in.

So it is with much trepidation that I relay the following story, in the hope that it is more suggestive than just another party parking anecdote. One morning last week, I left my car on a yellow line on the street near my flat. Returning three minutes later, I found a parking attendant getting ready to issue a ticket. What followed was surreal.

I did the usual futile routine — oops, so sorry, ha ha, is it okay if I move it right now? etc. Everyone tries this, and it never works; the attendant always says you're too late, and carries on with the ticket. On this occasion, the attendant said nothing at all. He didn't look up. He pretended I wasn't there. He carried on processing the ticket. It was as though he were deaf and dumb, a piece of pre-programmed robotic machinery.

There is a standard case for arguing that parking control has gone mad. People complain that armies of commission-bungy attendants are scouring the streets, backed up by private companies who employ thugs to tow away your car for an extortionate fee. You hear about thoroughly unpleasant scenes at car pounds, and the angry opinion say they should be abolished. It's a familiar complaint, and understandable enough, but not very sound.

Parking control is a perfectly legitimate exercise, and if all the traffic wardens and clammers were made redundant tomorrow, London would grind to a halt. You don't get towed away unless you park illegally, and I wouldn't have got a ticket if I hadn't parked on a yellow line. It was entirely reasonable, if annoying, for the attendant to give me a ticket. That isn't the point.

ALTERNATIVELY, there are those who look at the pressure on parking in cities and conclude that this is the inevitable consequence of a car culture. If public transport is useless, cars are fetishised, and company cars are society's semi-tax-free trophies, of course we will encounter problems over

where to put them all. There is some obvious truth in this, but that is also another argument.

The profoundly depressing point about last week's encounter with the attendant was not that I will have to pay a fine, which is normal enough, but that he would not even register that anyone else was there, which I do not think should be normal at all. It wasn't an aggressive encounter — I was too stunned to raise my voice — and it was only a parking ticket. It would be preferable if he issued 10 tickets at a go, and said something in the process, than had been reduced to the role of wordless automaton. It was an alienated, dehumanised exchange.

You would hope that this was the behaviour of one demoralised attendant who is sick of his job. It turns out that Camden Council, his employer, actually trains its parking attendants to act as if the public do not exist. Apparently, this is the approved strategy to prevent their staff being assaulted. So a local authority trains its staff to blank the people who elected it, and regards this as good practice.

A colleague recently witnessed a doctor jump from his car and rush into a house, clearly on an emergency call. So did a parking attendant, and she crossed the street to issue a ticket. My colleague pointed out that this was a doctor on call. She ignored him. Only when he tried to put money in the meter himself was she induced to talk to him, and she told him to mind his "own effing business".

The mistake is to think about these tiny incidents in terms of parking control. Parking is just a banal fact of life, but when people in cities

are reduced to behaving like this, it is neither banal nor a necessarily inevitable fact of life. Each time we strip away another layer of social lubricant, removing human beings from innocuous everyday interactions, we undo the basic norms necessary for large numbers of people to live together in the same small spaces. It may seem more "efficient" to do so, because human contact is messy and unpredictable and difficult to control, but it is also deeply damaging.

SOCIETY is engaged in an endless debate about why it is that we seem to be getting less civilised. Where did road rage come from? How come teenagers are abusive? How come patients attack nurses? Why are assaults on police going up? There are an infinite number of answers, and how one council trains its parking attendants is only a tiny fraction of one. But as an example of the way in which our response to the problem only serves to compound it, it is instructive. It does not take a behavioural psychologist to point out that if people are treated by authority as if they do not exist, they are likely to react badly.

The danger of becoming a parking bore in London is more worrying than the old parking ticket. On reflection, however, the danger regarding as normal the training of parking attendants is much worse. Urban life is cramped — that's the whole point of it — and habits are contagious. What is offensive in Camden soon becomes unremarkable in Cardiff, and we will be left lamenting another bit of common civility, and wondering how it happened.

Straw implies the Guardian should have broken the law over Tisdall

Jack's clanger

Ian Aitken



ONE of the oddest features of the present Government is its preference for sycophantic enemies over candid friends. Thus it is almost routine for ministers to make ritual attacks on the Guardian at almost every opportunity. At the same time, they respond eagerly to the flattery of the Sun and the Daily Mail.

Nowhere was this more clearly on display than at last month's Labour conference. And it wasn't just ministers. No less eager with their side-swipes at assorted fringe meetings were backbenchers with ministerial ambitions. They clearly hoped that the shadowy figure at the back of the room was a whip's mark.

But the practice of Guardian-bashing reached a new level in the Commons chamber on Monday night. You might not have noticed — the House's previous business was listening to a personal statement by Ron Davies, which somehow stole the headlines — but MPs were debating the activities of MIS and MIA. The discussion was based on the report of the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) — a committee of MPs, but oddly not a committee of the House.

It was a fascinating debate, with a succession of Labour committee members arguing that the status of the ISC should be changed from a body appointed by the Prime Minister — and therefore answerable to him — into a full-blown select committee appointed by the Commons and responsible exclusively to parliament. All the usual suspects were on display, including a typically slimy attack by Dr Julian Lewis, the Tory MP for New Forest, on Joan Ruddock for her CND activities.

THEN came a powerful speech by Clive Soley, the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, backing the call to turn the ISC into a select committee. But Soley concluded by drawing attention to the absence of provision, under the Official Secrets Act, for civil servants who leaked secrets to mount a "public interest" defence of their action. He complained that no distinction was made between leakers whose motives were wholly venal — he cited Peter Wright of Spy-catcher fame — and whistleblowers who leaked information because they believed the public had a right to know. In the latter category, Soley

mentioned Clive Ponting and the Belgrano cover-up, and also "the sad case of Sarah Tisdall, the 23-year-old who was sent to prison, having given information to the Guardian". This stimulated Jack Straw to intervene from his seat on the Government front bench. "Blame the Guardian," he snapped.

Only three words, perhaps. But, coming from a home secretary who prides himself on a tough law-and-order approach to his job, these three words contain a remarkable implication. For they clearly suggest that the Guardian, in its handling of the Tisdall case, should have been prepared to break the law.

SARAH, it may be recalled, was a junior civil servant in the private office of the then defence secretary, Michael Heseltine. She discovered evidence that Haggis, who was personally dedicated to fighting CND, was planning a big deception to head off demonstrations against the arrival of the US Cruise missiles at Greenham Common. Angry, she pushed the document into the traditional plain brown envelope and delivered it to the Guardian. When the Guardian published a fearful bocha ensued. The then editor, Peter Preston, was taken to court and ordered to return what was held to be a stolen document. After much agonising — and having witnessed it, I can testify to the agony — Preston decided that he had written too many leaders in defence of the rule of law to disobey it now. He returned the document, and Ms Tisdall was identified.

Jack Straw presumably believes that Preston should

Did you know that the nearest cafe to MIS's HQ is called Miss Money Penny's?

have defied the very law which, as New Labour's home secretary, it is now his duty to enforce. One can only assume that, dozing on the front bench, the years had slipped away and Our Jack imagined himself a tearaway student activist again, earning the accolade of a personal file in MIS's archives. Or perhaps he was remembering the occasion when, as an aide to Barbara Castle, he was fingerprinted as a suspect in a Whitehall leaks enquiry. The debate turned up some additional gems. Did you know, for instance, that the nearest cafe to MIS's new riverside HQ is called Miss Money Penny's? Or that there is something called "the Mossad rule" among intelligence givers, which states that you should never spend taxpayers' money or risk people's lives in unearthing information that is already on the front page of Al-Ahram?

The dignified and determined response of the Bangladeshi people has saved thousands of lives

Coping with Mitch

Clare Short



THIS year has been one of the worst this century for natural disasters. At the beginning of the year El Niño brought floods to East Africa and drought and forest fires in Latin America and Indonesia.

In the summer, floods in China and Bangladesh killed thousands and left more homeless. And now Hurricane Mitch has be-

come the worst tropical storm in Central America this century. Some 9,000 have been killed. Thousands more are missing and 1,000,000 or more are homeless. The destruction of roads and bridges is making distribution of aid extremely difficult.

There are fears that natural disasters will become more frequent and severe throughout the world. We need to learn how to prepare for them better and respond to them more effectively.

A few years ago, the normal response to a disaster like Hurricane Mitch would have been for the disaster-struck country to make the rounds of capitals asking for pledges. The response would often depend on how good the television coverage of the disaster had been in each country. We can and must do better than that.

The international system is co-ordinating the response to the devastation Hurricane Mitch has brought to Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and other parts of Central America. Local and regional organisations are taking the lead in identifying priority needs. And they are

those coming in from outside work under clear guidance from the national authorities. Too often responses to disasters have been made worse by well-intentioned but uncoordinated outside help.

Our response to Hurricane Mitch has taken this approach. We let the UN

A few years ago, the response to a disaster like Hurricane Mitch would often depend on how good the television coverage of the disaster had been

working closely with the UN to organise all of the offers of outside help which have been made. Experience shows that the most important step is to use local organisations first and to make sure that

and others know immediately that we stood ready to help. But our first priority was to help get the structures in place that would make all our contributions as effective as possible. We have contrib-

uted funds through the regional Red Cross offices, the Pan-American Health Organisation and through international aid organisations such as Cafod and Cava. We are also sending medical supplies direct to El Salvador. And HMS Sheffield's actions have already brought welcome help.

All of these contributions are part of an international effort involving many others. As new needs are identified, we will work with others to help meet them.

But we must also do more to prepare for disasters. Bangladesh is a model. The dignified and determined response of the Bangladeshi people to the floods this summer has saved thousands of lives. There are lessons for all of us in the way that the authorities there analysed the flood risks and made

plans to tackle them. My department is working with governments and organisations around the world to help countries reduce the risks from natural disasters, strengthen their ability to respond effectively when disasters do strike, and reconstruct quickly afterwards. We need to strengthen

Now we will work with others to ensure an effective international response, both in the next few days and weeks and in the years of recovery that will be needed.

national capacities to handle natural disasters and build effective international systems to co-ordinate and deliver help to poorer countries.

Hurricane Mitch is a devastating tragedy for

poor countries to prepare for disasters, and the effectiveness of the international community in responding to them.

Clare Short is Secretary of State for International Development

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Carry on cutting

The Bank is on message

THEY marched them up to the top of the hill and now they are marching them down again. The Bank of England's monetary policy committee (MPC), having ill-advisedly raised interest rates for most of the year, is now finally convinced that the danger of recession is greater than the risk of inflation. Yesterday's reduction of 0.5 percentage points follows a cut of 0.25 per cent the previous month. Now they have acquired the habit, they should carry on for a bit longer. Interest rates in the UK are still 1.25 to 2.75 percentage points above France and Germany with whose economies the Government hopes eventually to converge. It's true that they are in the throes of an upward phase of the economic cycle while the UK is slowing down — but that is an added reason not to be too cautious because inflationary pressures will subside as the domestic economy slows down.

Lower interest rates will put more money in the pockets of people with mortgages (at the expense of savers) thereby giving a boost to consumer spending and the housing market, both of which have been flagging. Lower rates on loans will also make it cheaper for companies to invest. And, above all, will make the pound — which has been masochistically fighting above its weight in recent years — more competitive. The Chancellor ought to be relieved because lower interest rates are desperately needed if Britain's economy is to have any chance of achieving the "soft landing" forecast earlier

this week in the Pre-Budget Statement. The speed at which the Bank is now reducing interest rates will be seen by critics as a tacit admission that it was over-hasty in raising rates during the past year to defeat an inflation bogey that was already running away. Yet members of the MPC — to a man — voted against a reduction every month until September, when the previously hawkish William Butler suddenly started cooling like a dove. It is important to say "to-a-man" because the only person to vote for a reduction (since May) was DeAnne Julius, the highest ranking woman in a male-dominated Bank. It is just possible that there is a moral there somewhere.

The Bank's main reason for raising interest rates earlier in the year was fear of a wages boom. Yet revised figures published last month show that wage inflation early in the year instead of being over 5 per cent, as thought at the time, was actually under 4 per cent — well below the danger level. This confirmed what some observers felt at the time that the official earnings index was being exaggerated by technical factors including bonuses and the effects of profit-related pay. And even if it wasn't, price inflation (the ultimate object of monetary policy) was coming steadily down anyway. In other words the interest rate rise in June was based on false data and shouldn't have taken place.

What should happen now? First, the Bank of England should continue to reduce interest rates in order to engineer a fall in the pound sufficient to restore the pound's competitiveness. A burst of export-led growth would enable the UK economy to hitch a lift aboard Europe's revival and help the Chancellor's soft landing to become a reality. Second, if the Government wants to deliver another hammer blow to inflation it should act directly on prices. Why is it that cars are

so much cheaper in Europe and computers in the United States? Why has the well-publicised collapse in farming incomes not been translated into lower prices in the shops? There is no particular worry about price inflation at the moment (it is falling everywhere) but if the Government wants to bolster the MPC's new-found realism, it should use its considerable regulatory powers to bring prices down further — so the Bank can Carry On Cutting.

Michael's mantle

Labour must let Wales choose

RARELY has so much attention been lavished on Wales in such a short space of time. Since the sudden, and still slightly mysterious, departure of Ron Davies as secretary of state, the London-based press and the London-based government have shown an interest in the principality rarely exhibited until now. The focus yesterday was the announcement by Mr Davies' successor, Alun Michael, that he wants to lead the first Welsh assembly, which is due to spring into life next May.

Three obstacles stand between him and that ambition. First, he is not yet even a candidate for the new assembly. Accommodatingly, Welsh Labour have re-opened the application procedure they closed in March so that he can find a seat. The other two problems are not so easily solved. Mr Michael has to assure Labour party members in Wales that he is not the Downing Street candidate, "parachuted in" to deal with the natives. And he has to beat the back-bench MP who took on Ron Davies: Rhodri Morgan.

These twin goals are related. For Mr Morgan's appeal rests on his status as the

man from the grass roots, the Welsh challenger of the Millbank machine. If he can cast Mr Michael as the long arm of the centre, he might do well — especially in a ballot granting one member, one vote. For that reason, one could not blame Alun Michael and friends if they are hoping to avoid a direct contest. Yet the only way Mr Michael can throw off the Millbank mantle is to submit to an open, contested election. A back-room stitch-up in London will not be good enough; he needs to prove that he is, in the jargon, "Made in Wales".

If the party chooses a different path, and goes for the quick fix, it could well pay the price. Admittedly, disaffected Labour supporters do not have an obvious place to go: Ffald Cymru poses a much smaller threat to Welsh Labour than the Scottish Nationalists do to the party in Scotland, and both the Welsh Tories and Lib Dems are weak. But if Welsh Labour's sense of being taken for granted by Millbank grows, then apathy will be the result. Turnout next May, in a contest Labour is already hilling as the Welsh General Election, will be low, and the legitimacy of the new assembly will be in doubt. This matters far beyond Wales: for if devolution is to founder there, the chances of self-rule spreading into England and across Britain would be badly hurt. Labour has to let Wales choose its own leader. That's what devolution is all about.

Caring for children

Central monitoring is crucial

ANY reform which gets such a euphoric response from the service it is meant to improve, needs careful scrutiny. Social service directors yesterday gave the Government's latest initiative to raise the stan-

dards of care of children living away from their parents an unequivocal welcome. They declared: "The Government is clear about what it wants to achieve — how it wants to improve things for children looked after. We agree." Ministers were responding to last year's Utting Report, which examined the safeguards of all 200,000 children living away from their parents. It embraced all institutions, from the grimmest penal unit to the poshest private school, but was prompted by the abuse — physical, sexual and emotional — which had occurred in children's homes. Children who had been taken away from their parents for their own protection, ended up being further abused in supposedly safe havens. No wonder the public was outraged.

What people forget is that most of the abuse still being tried in the courts happened two decades ago. Utting concluded last year that the risks today were far less. Indeed the number of children in such homes has shrunk from 40,000 to 5,000 in the last two decades. Children in foster homes, where there are fewer visitors and less monitoring, could be more vulnerable. Yesterday's package addresses current shortcomings: a new advocacy service to promote the voice of the child; better regulation of fostering, boarding schools, and small children's homes; more support for children leaving care.

Once again there is a promise to improve training but this time there will be a ministerial task force to monitor the overall programme of action. Child care has become fragmented with its different purchasers and providers. A central monitoring agency is crucial. To their credit, the social service directors do note one shortfall: the failure to end demands of children aged 15 and 16 to prison. Ministers remain reluctant to look soft on crime.

Letters to the Editor

Mandy and the noughties

AS one of a team from Exeter University that has been studying wild beaver in France for several years, I would strongly support their reintroduction to Britain on grounds of increased biodiversity. The overall range of plant and animal species, and the number of any one species, increase in their wake. You could almost argue that you don't need conservation officers, providing you have a resident beaver family. Prof Bryony Cole, University of Exeter.

SHOCK! Horror! Diary gets into bed with Mandy! Metaphorically speaking, of course. Cancel subscription. Nigel Gann, Southampton.

THE first political "pieing" in London did not occur last weekend (Custard pie on menu, November 2). On March 9 this year, Cllr John Biggs, chair of the environmental services committee of Tower Hamlets council, was pried by me in the council chamber in front of many witnesses. Charlotte Baggs, London.

WHAT are we to call the new decade (Letters, November 5)? The noughties, of course. Laura Garratt, Uxbridge, Middx.

FOLLOWED by the teenies? Herbert Layton, Churchdown, Glos.

THE "noughties", and I for one can't wait. Steve Commons, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

ARE we heading for 10 years of obesity and unemployment behaviour? Peter J Martin, London.

The value of family life

HUGO Young (Comment, November 5), offers a contradictory assessment of the Government's consultation document on the family. He begins by recognising the intrusive and oppressive character of the recommendations, but concludes by suggesting that the proposals are "not only valid but indispensably correct".

The suggestion appears to be that state interference in family life might prove essential for the Guardian reader-ship, but it is a price worth paying to control less respectable (presumably working class) families, described as the "focal point of so vast a range of social problems". This betrays a Victorian work-view in which the moral fibre of the masses needs to be reinforced by the attention of their social betters.

Not only does this give legitimacy to authoritarian state intervention in family life, it also draws attention away from the structural causes of social problems, such as inequality and poverty. The curious thing is that, in Britain at least, it is the left that is leading the calls for ever greater regulation of everyday life. I take some consolation from Jonathan Freedland (Comment, November 5) that the Americans at least are beginning to reject this tendency.

Dr David Wainwright, University of Kent.

I AM glad that in spite of his reservations Hugo Young came out in support of the much maligned nanny state. It is a commonplace that when encountering a delinquent youngster or a "problem" child one is forced to the conclusion that it is too late, the damage has been done. The root problem lies in the family background. It is good that we have a government which, in spite of the many potential pitfalls, is prepared to try to tackle the problem.

R Rivers-Moore, Fairford, Glos.

IN his attempt to reinstate family values and define the family as strict heterosexual coupledom, Jack Straw has fallen into the modern ideology of the "2+2 children plus a dog" type of family that has nothing to do with the generosity required by the Christian gospel. Surely lesbian and gay people would be among the safest people to care for

children because they are aware of the dangers? Professional opinion tells us that most child abuse takes place in "normal" families. Yet here is Jack Straw encouraging gay people to maintain the smoke-screen that all would be well if only you have one man and one woman who are married.

Marriage, as such, is no guarantee that a couple's motivations are ideal in respect to the children they may have. Christopher Lamb, Hemmingford Grey, Cambs.

AS a child from an alternative family, I can assure everybody that it is love that counts and not two married parents. My mother, sisters and I were raised by a single parent. The love of those of my friends who were tired of their parents' fight. A gay/lesbian/single parent family is one that requires extraordinary thought and commitment on the part of the parents. People who are willing to fight for their families surely send the most important of all messages to their children — that they are valued. Ron Elliott, York.



Employers back disability action

IN your eulogy of Margaret Hodge (Yes, new minister, G2, November 4) her defence for excluding 92.5 per cent of employers from the employment provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act is: "There is not a body of evidence... which demonstrates to employers that there will not be a hefty cost to them of employing disabled people."

This astounding claim contradicts the Government's own consultation document on the small employers' review, which stated: "Research evidence has shown that most employers experience no problems in employing disabled people and incur no, or little, additional

costs in doing so." It is totally at variance with the provisions of the Act which specifically say that "only reasonable adjustments" are required. Any hefty cost for employers would be prohibited by the Act itself. In addition, if employers were so worried about these supposedly hefty costs, why did 90 per cent of them advocate a reduction in the employer exemption threshold from 20 employees, and why did 46 per cent of this group of employers think the reduction should be to two or more employees, whilst only 19 per cent thought it should be the 15 chosen by Government? Lord Ashley of Stoke.

Laureates all

RE Simon Vogel's carping about Ted Hughes (Letters, November 5): Hughes opted for shorter, Anglo-Saxon words over smoother, Latinate ones; Betjeman was more a versifier than a poet; I hope Vogel's poetry is better than his prose. Don Oldham, Bristol.

WHOSE style could be more suited to chronicling the achievements of the Windsors than the great Pam Ayres? Bob Heys, Halifax.

SURELY the only contender to write poems which reflect the dignity of the monarchy is E J Thring? Peter Stockhill, Middlesbrough.

Scrap Section 28 and bring gay sex out into the open

JOAN Smith (Dangerous Liaisons, G2, November 3) claims that having outdoor sex with strangers — "better carried on in the dark with someone you don't know" — is a puritan point of view. Curiously, this practice was at the heart of all the ancient goddess-worshipping religions of Europe and the Near East.

Women of every degree, even queens and daughters of the royal houses, had sex with strangers as part of the Rites of the Goddess. The vast majority of these encounters took place out of doors on sacred ground — woods, groves, henges (Clapham Common probably has a long and honourable pedigree in this respect).

There can't, then, be any deep seated psychological barrier to women behaving like gay men. But of course, they don't, presumably because they're bright enough to see that they now live in a phallic world where rape and murder is commonplace. How

ever, there is one group of modern women who do still roam our dangerous, frightening cities, outdoors, and at night, in search of strangers to have sex with, namely prostitutes. Is Ms Smith accusing them of being puritans too? Lily Devon, Moreton, Wirral.

AS the Government let it be known it has dropped its intention to scrap Section 28 of the Local Government Act, which forbids the "promotion" of homosexuality in schools, came reports of the suicide of a 15-year-old boy who had been mercilessly bullied because of his perceived homosexuality (Suicide verdict on boy, November 5). Any teacher who wants to help similarly tormented children may feel constrained from doing so by the existence of Section 28 and similarly tragic consequences will recur. Terry Sanderson, London.

Advertisement

CALL BY THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND CANTON OF GENEVA FOR THE EXTRADITION AND TRIAL OF AUGUSTO PINOCHET

On 23 October 1998, the Parliament of the Republic and Canton of Geneva adopted the following resolution:

The Parliament, considering:

- the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the dictator Augusto Pinochet in Chile for 17 years
- the arrest of this sinister individual by the British justice authorities at the request of two Madrid judges, who have asked for his extradition to Spain to face trial for "genocide, terrorism and incitement to torture",

resolves

- to condemn strongly the acts of Augusto Pinochet, who was undoubtedly responsible for a wave of political assassinations, torture and disappearances;
- to extend its unconditional support for the extradition request made by the two Spanish judges to the British government;
- to firmly encourage the British and Spanish governments to take all necessary steps to ensure that justice is finally done;
- to call for and to support the establishment of an international court so that the crimes committed by the former leader of the Chilean junta against his own citizens and persons from all over the world do not remain unpunished.

The Parliament of the Republic and Canton of Geneva proposes that this international court should sit in Geneva.

The Parliament

The Parliament of the Republic and Canton of Geneva consists of 100 members elected by universal suffrage.

Common pursuits

Bel Littlejohn

(add soonest). And when we've reached the top, we've been able to grab a few precious minutes for sitting down and gazing all the way down at Janet's Fasion Series 5 to block out our schedules.

I mention rambling because a lot of people think that just because they're stuck in a city centre, rambling has no place in their busy lifestyles. Not so, this Government totally supports the Right to Roam in all public parks and on commons. In fact, particularly on commons.

Between hectic schedules, Janet and I regularly strap on our Doc Martens and our rucksacks and take to London's open spaces. And it's a joy we're pleased to share with some very senior figures. Over the years I've enjoyed some truly great rambling with my good mate Janet. Street-Factor. Together we've trodden over dunes and downs and dunes and something else landscape. Beginning with d

open air," a senior minister told me last week.

Clapham Common's a particular favourite, and this exclusive extract from Bel's Rambling Yearbook (Faber, £14.95) testifies to what a very popular location it's become with the new administration, bless 'em.

January. Exercising my Right to Roam, I put on my rucksack and set off with Janet S-P on an afternoon ramble in Battersea Park. Just near the old bandstand, I bump into the lovely John Prescott. There's something different about him, but I can't put my finger on it. Then it strikes me: his hair isn't usually blond and he doesn't often wear a centre parting. Also, I've never seen him in his chief steward's naval costume. He looks sky, bless him.

"Everything all right, John?" I say. "Fina, Bel," he replies. "Just rehearsing for the spring production of HMS

Pinafore with some of the lads!"

February. Striding around the bushy area of Hampstead Heath in the evening, Janet and I spot Frank Dobson in the long grass. "Hiya, Frank!" I say. "But hey, isn't there something different about you?" I know — you're wearing a long frock and Easter bonnet! You usually wear a dark suit from Cecil Gee! Frank explains that he's playing the part of Dear Little Buttercup in HMS Pinafore, before hurrying off.

APRIL: To Clapham Common for a well-earned ramble. Who should I spot but the super Jack Straw! Unusually for Jack, he is dressed in a one-piece silk jumpsuit with glittery lacy on either side of his chest. I recall that in the early 1970s, he was a founding member of the group Sweet. The rest of them went on to great success with top hits

like Coco and Blockbuster, while Jack became Home Secretary. But he never lost touch with his musical roots, and can still be seen in his jumpsuit on special occasions, such as state banquets and rambles. He says he's testing Clapham Common as a suitable venue for a Sweet reunion in the autumn. "I'm just worried there'll be too many squeegee merchants about, Bel," he says, fiddling nervously with the sequins on his cheeks. "They can be a truly dreadful nuisance on the Common."

July. St James's Park has never seemed so lovely in the fading evening sun, all reds and oranges and (fill in more colours here). Janet and I are on a ramble all the way round the park when who should we stumble upon but Gordon Brown, marching forcefully along in a sober suit and tie, carrying his red box under his arm. "Whoops!" I yelp as we collide. In the confusion

his red box snaps open and something clatters to the ground. Picking it up, I notice it's the new CD of The Village People's Greatest Hits. "Sarah's a huge fan," he mumbles as he hustles away.

October. Tony's been in Number 10 for 18 months now, and it's all gone like clockwork. We've been able to put all those years of Tory sleaze and hypocrisy behind us. That's what I tell the four Cabinet ministers I come upon during a ramble around Wimbledon Common. Later, I realise there was something odd. I ask the lovely Alastair Campbell if he knows why they were dressed as Wombles. "I only recognised one of them was Jack Straw because he was wearing his specs on the outside," I say. Alastair says he knows the reason, and they know the reason, and Tony knows the reason. And now I know the reason too. But frankly, it's none of your business, so just shut it, OK?

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FinanceGuardian

Unexpected help for homeowners □ Savings returns to fall □ City judges economy is in poor shape

Lenders cut their mortgage rates

Liz Stuart
and Rupert Jones

BANKS and building societies moved immediately to cut their mortgage rates after an unexpected 0.5 per cent cut in base rates by the Bank of England yesterday. A borrower with a £50,000 home loan will save up to £19.50 a month.

Halifax and Abbey National, the two biggest lenders, were among those which dropped their standard variable rates by 0.5 per cent. The Halifax's new rate is 8.2 per cent. Abbey National, which has a sliding scale of standard variable rates depending on loan size, has cut to 8.15 per cent for loans of up to £28,999, with effect from November 11 for existing borrowers, and December 1 for new. Taken together with the rate cut announced last month, a typical borrower with a £50,000 interest-only mortgage will benefit from a cumulative saving of nearly £30 a month.

What the rate changes mean to you

Amount of loan	Halifax monthly payment at 8.2%	Nationwide monthly payment at 8.2%	Monthly payment saved
£30,000	£184.50	£173.25	£11.25
£50,000	£289.50	£268.75	£20.75
£70,000	£394.50	£358.25	£36.25
£120,000	£799.50	£750.75	£48.75

Based on interest only mortgage, assuming 25 year term. Both lenders tax relief available up to £30,000

several other leading lenders announced similar cuts. Society has cut its rate by 0.65 per cent to 7.85 per cent. This is on top of a 0.2 per cent

reduction it announced last week, although the society did not cut its rates last time the Bank cut the base rate. Barclays Bank has moved from 8.7 per cent to 8.2 per cent, with effect from December 1 for all borrowers, and Woolwich's new 8.2 per cent has immediate effect for existing mortgage customers. Midland will announce its changes today.

Alan Fuldwell, deputy chief executive of the Halifax, said: "We welcome this move by the monetary policy committee and it will be of help to home owners."

Andrew Messenger, chief executive of the West Bromwich Building Society, said: "Action should have been taken many months ago to bring interest rates down. The committee now appears to be making amends."

The size of the cut caught most major lenders by surprise, said Mark Chilton, of mortgage brokers Savills Private Finance. Someone with a loan of £150,000 will save up to £51.25 a month. Housing experts said the move would boost the market. The Council of Mortgage Lenders, the industry trade body, said: "The uncertainty with the economy and the recent rate rises have had a negative effect on the housing

Shares are hit for billions

Charlotte Denry

THE Bank of England's unexpected half per cent cut in base rates wiped £20 billion off the value of shares yesterday as the City concluded that the economic outlook was much gloomier than anticipated.

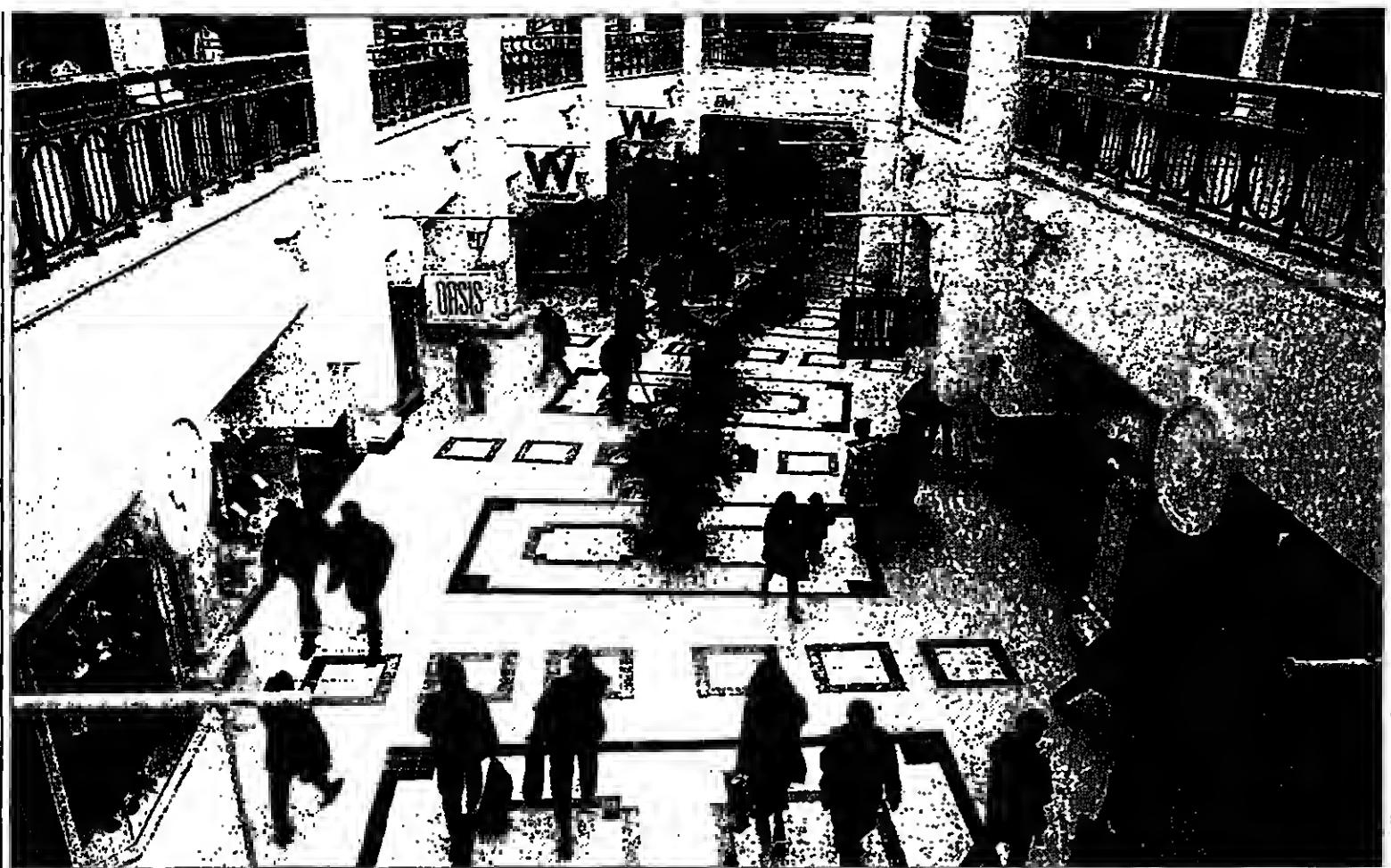
After hitting a 10-week high on Wednesday, the Financial Times index of 100 leading shares fell 141 points last night to close at 5478.9, a drop of 2.5 percentage points.

The market greeted the noon announcement of the cut in rates with initial enthusiasm but as investors digested the implications of the cut and the accompanying statement, fears of lower corporate earnings prompted profit taking.

Yesterday's statement from the Bank said that its monetary policy committee had moderated growth forecasts next year and now expected inflation to be lower. "The bigger than expected cut has woken investors up to the fact that the economy is in a pretty dire state," said Colin Warren of Tokai Bank Europe. "It seems like a panic measure. The Bank had to give something up to make the Chancellor's forecasts look realistic but it's too late. Rates are still too high and the damage has already been done. It won't avoid us going into recession next year."

The pound buckled under a barrage of selling after the decision. Sterling shed 0.5 per cent against both the mark and the dollar, to set a two-month low against the US currency within minutes of the Bank's announcement of the largest rate reduction in five years. But an afternoon rally boosted the pound which closed down just half a penny against the mark at 2.7683.

The Footsie has climbed by 20 per cent since its October lows and analysts said much of yesterday's decline was due to profit taking. But the Bank's gloomy statement has also prompted investors to reassess the profitability of much of the corporate sector.



Another, more prosperous planet: rate cut hardly seems to matter to shoppers at the Royal Victoria Place centre in Tunbridge Wells. PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN GOWEN

Retail bubble still yo-yoing along in deepest Tunbridge

Janice Warman finds velvet hairband brigade are carrying on regardless

ROYAL Victoria Place in Tunbridge Wells has the air of another, more prosperous planet: glass roof panels, scenic lifts and wrought iron, redolent, perhaps, of the fashionable spa town it once was.

It is retail heaven from the glittering Chanel counters of Fenwick to the primary colours of Gap. People with hurrying shopping bags in each hand chat on benches or sip coffee in the cavernous food hall.

News of the base rate cut hasn't reached this far, it seems, and many retailers seem to feel that, while not exactly irrelevant, it doesn't matter much. They exist in a retail bubble, peopled with what Princess Diana used to call the "velvet hairband brigade", for whom the Christmas rush began in October half-term.

"The area is a wealthy one," says Helen Carpenter, manager of Decorating with Pictures. "It's not going to make that much difference."

Over at the specialist candle shop Wax Lyrical, manager Beryl Doré is looking at the difference moving the shop to a better site within the centre has made.

And Nicholas Ridsdale, manager of Karriem, the specialist climbing outfit, said that last Christmas had been quiet, but feels the rate cut is bound to boost confidence. "Business has picked up in the last two weeks over the October half-term."

At Route One, the sports, skateboarding and kite shop next door, assistant manager Matt Roberts has the answer to world recession: yo-yos. "We will definitely have a good Christmas," he says.

The craze has doubled the shop's income. It offers a full range as well as a spares and repair service and there are queues of eight-year-olds out of the door and around the corner on Saturdays.

But Maureen Rush, owner of clothes shop Buddies, introduced a more sober note. "Yes, we are looking forward to a good Christmas, but we're not sure about then on."

The rumour is we're heading for a world recession. The rate cut is good news—but I don't think it's enough. When you hear that M&S is 23 per cent down, things have got to be bleak."



She had a cautionary note too for Gordon Brown. "With business rates going up, small retailers may soon feel the pinch even more," she said.

Shoppers Tony Goodey and his partner are laden with bags. But they both feel the cut is no more than the one swallow which doesn't make a summer—perhaps because they both work for banks.

"It needs to stay at this level for a while," says Mr Goodey. After all, rates have been going up every month and people are far from confident about the world picture. People might even feel this was a panic move, he suggests.

But it seems he is a lone voice. Mrs Karen Fairclough, heading home with her children after finishing her shift as a sales assistant at Argos, points out that the spending spree which started in half-term has turned into a Christmas rush already. "I take it one day as it comes," she says. "One pay-packet at a time."

Notebook

A recession signal from the Bank



Alex Brummer

THERE has been a week of two halves. On Tuesday there was the Chancellor in his pre-Budget report forecasting that recession would be avoided and the UK economy would be roaring away by 2000. Then, yesterday, there was a very different message from the Bank of England. The Bank's decision to slice its key market rate by half a point to 6.75 per cent—having already cut by a quarter-point a month earlier—is as strong a recession signal as one is likely to get.

Less than four weeks ago there were only two members of the monetary policy committee—DeAnne Julius and Willem Buiter—pushing for a more aggressive rate reduction. Now they have a majority including, one expects, the Governor, Eddie George, on their side. Mr George, in the broad tradition of central bankers commanding a committee, has not (as far as we know) found himself on the losing side.

So what has made the Bank wise up? Its statement invokes three reasons. First, the news about the international environment; second, prospects for the domestic economy; and finally, the outlook for inflation. Judging from the London stock market's reaction to the rate cut—a broad markdown bringing an end to the recent 11 per cent rally—it believes that the deterioration in the domestic economy and its effects on the turnover and profits of UK corporations is the biggest threat. This is, after all, the week in which the retailing bellwether, Marks & Spencer, unveiled a 23 per cent profit retreat.

It is curious that the Bank should now be citing the global environment among its reasons for easing. Arguably, the global picture has steadied over the past month, unless there is some disaster pending in the monetary stability area about which the authorities are keeping silent.

In fact, it is curious that the Bank is paying much attention to global matters at all. In June, the MPC was only too happy to say that the UK, as a small, less-than-critical country in the wind-swept north-western corner of Europe, could make little difference to global meltdown. Rates were raised to 7.25 per cent, when they should have been at least held if not cut.

Since then, the world has been through the Russian OKO mess, volatile global equity markets, capital fleeing Latin America as if there were no tomorrow and an incipient credit crunch in the US. All these factors have, on the surface, been at least temporarily relieved since the October 8 interest rate cut, so the Bank's statement is not convincing.

The international factor which has changed since October 8 is the recognition by so many other central banks that concerted action to lower rates is necessary. The Federal Reserve's half-point cut on October 15 has been followed by reductions in Spain, Italy, Portugal and Ireland, among the European Monetary Union "in" countries and by Denmark and Sweden among the outs.

Only Germany and France are standing firm against interest rate reductions, despite slowing growth and the pressure on the Bundesbank from German finance minister Oskar Lafontaine for a monetary easing. So, in global terms, the MPC emerges as something of a follower rather than a leader.

This time around, however, the evidence of a domestic slowdown is looking far more decisive. The Chancellor outlined how UK exports to the Far East had been savaged by crisis. But what is likely to have been critical to the MPC is the survey evidence, plus its own intelligence obtained through the Bank's agents.

These serve, to some extent like the regional Federal Reserve banks in the US, as useful sounding boards. The CBI's quarterly industrial trends survey, released last week and regarded by many economists inside and outside government as one of the most reliable forward-looking indicators, showed the worst reading in the balance between optimism and pessimism since 1980.

If any confirmation was needed on the difficulties of

that concerted action to lower rates is necessary. The Federal Reserve's half-point cut on October 15 has been followed by reductions in Spain, Italy, Portugal and Ireland, among the European Monetary Union "in" countries and by Denmark and Sweden among the outs.

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All the evidence from the high street is of subdued spending patterns as consumers batten down

the manufacturing sector then it came from the industrial production figures, which showed a 0.4 per cent decline in output in September—or 1 per cent down over the past two months.

But it is not just the manufacturing side of the economy which is now hurting. All the evidence from the high street is of subdued spending patterns as consumers batten down in response to uncertain financial markets, global economic gloom and the job losses in manufacturing.

At the heart of the Bank of England's thinking must always be its central mission to hit the 2.5 per cent inflation target. Mr George made clear in his keynote TUC speech that the MPC would work as hard to ensure that there was not a serious undershoot as it would if there were an overshoot. The domestic slowdown has led the Bank to revise downwards its inflation forecast over the next two years. How it arrived there will be fully explained in the next Inflation Report.

But the critical point here is that the drop in the Bank's repo rate to 6.75 per cent is unlikely to be the last. Eurosterling markets are signalling 6 per cent base rates for the spring. With money costs coming down at this pace this may just be the start of better times for homeowners—provided they can hang on to their jobs.

Downturn fears hit the high street

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

BITAIN'S shops and stores had their worst month for more than three years in October as growing fears of recession prompted a mass avoidance of the high street by anxious consumers.

The latest snapshot of retailing from the Confederation of British Industry underlined recent grim news from large chains such as John Lewis and suggested that the UK's service sector is following manufacturing into the doldrums.

Data from the Office for National Statistics showed that weakening demand from clothes shops, coupled with cut-throat competition from Asia, cut production by Britain's textile sector by 3 per cent in the latest quarter.

According to the ONS, factory output fell by 0.1 per cent in the three months ending in September, with production down by 0.5 per cent in each of the last two months.

Nine of the 14 sub-sectors of manufacturing witnessed cutbacks in output, although

strong sales of computers and transport equipment helped to minimise the overall drop. ONS officials said that they had cut their estimate of the trend in manufacturing from a 0.5 per cent annual increase last month to a flat picture now. Factories produced the same amount of goods in the latest quarter as in the second quarter of 1990, when the economy was about to enter recession.

Surveys from both the British Chambers of Commerce and the CBI have indicated

that the outlook for manufacturing is set to deteriorate over the winter. While manufacturing now accounts for only 21.6 per cent of the economy, services account for around two-thirds of national output. The CBI said yesterday that the unexpected weakness of its Distributive Trades Survey was "clear evidence" that the whole economy was now slowing down.

Alastair Eperou, chairman of the CBI Distributive Trades panel, said: "The drop in retail sales in October took

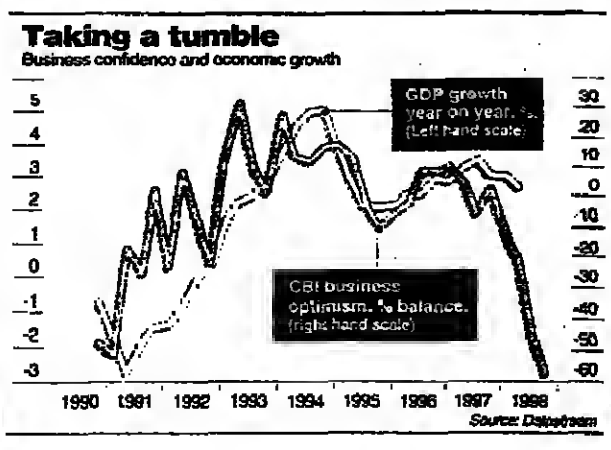
retailers by surprise. The survey continues to suggest that underlying growth in trade is losing momentum."

Retailers had expected sales in October to be modestly higher than 12 months ago, but the survey found that only 32 per cent reported business growing while 36 per cent said activity was lower than a year earlier. The negative balance of minus 4 per cent compared with plus 16 per cent in September and was the weakest finding since August 1995.

Analysts now expect shops to cut prices aggressively in a bid to woo consumers back into the shops for the Christmas trading period, which accounts for 25 per cent of annual retail sales.

Shops selling clothes, furniture and carpets, and hardware, china and DIY goods all reported that trade was down on October 1997, with those retailers selling small-ticket items—booksellers, chemists and shoe shops—faring better.

The CBI also said sales volumes for motor traders dropped sharply in October, and were expected to remain weak this month.



Smiles for data detection act

Laurie Laird

OFFICIALS at the Office of National Statistics, which has been criticised for inconsistent earnings figures, could be given for a wry smile after the US government had difficulties with a similar set of data.

America's Bureau of Labour Statistics, which produces revered employment and earnings data, yesterday inadvertently posted October statistics on its Internet site 24 hours before the scheduled release time of 12.30GMT today. An astute economic consultancy, Stone & McCarthy, noted the numbers, and reports say that Ray Stone, the group's partner, contacted the BLS. Mr Stone reportedly

gave the BLS five minutes to officially release the data. After getting no response, he broadcast the numbers on his screen-based service. The BLS later took the unusual step of officially releasing the data a day early.

"When we first discovered the problem, we took the data down, but then we realised people had the information anyway," said a BLS spokesman, adding that the Bureau is investigating the cause of the mishap.

These aren't just any old numbers. As the first official government report released each month, the number of jobs created and the pace of earnings growth often set the tone of stock, bond and currency markets in the US and around the world.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.547	Germany 2.6755	Malaysia 8.29	Singapore 2.88
Austria 13.75	Greece 46.49	Malta 0.8085	South Africa 5.07
Belgium 55.25	Hong Kong 12.47	Netherlands 2.0099	Spain 225.45
Canada 2.45	India 70.045	New Zealand 3.05	Sweden 12.53
Cyprus 0.79	Ireland 1.0988	Norway 11.86	Switzerland 2.19
Denmark 12.24	Israel 7.15	Portugal 271.82	Turkey 450.890
Finland 8.21	Italy 2.980	Saudi Arabia 1.11	USA 1.611
France 8.54			

Sourced by Reuters (excluding ropes, wharves and molasses)

سكرا من الاموال

Branson's awfully big adventure



RICHARD BRANSON arrived alone on a hired, double-decker bus, grinning and hugging his cheering staff in the cold wind of Sheffield's Don Valley, writes *Silvi Pahl*. The Virgin chairman (above) was there to open his latest venture, Britain's biggest

cinema in a £22.5 million leisure park where locals previously made do. The 20-screen Megaplex centre, with 5,000 seats, marks another step in the northern trend of leisure and service jobs replacing heavy industry. The Government claims a net job

rise in the North-east and Yorkshire but the opposition is alarmed at the loss of manufacturing firms. Some 600 jobs will be created at the new Valley Centre complex, which houses themed restaurants, cafes, night-clubs and

bowling as well as the cinema. Mr Branson added that Megaplex planned for Bolton, Lancashire, and Crawley in Sussex next year would only have 18 screens. "I'd say this Megaplex is the biggest we'll ever get," he said. PHOTOGRAPH: DON McFEE

Lords' ruling takes swipe at workers' rights

Philip Inman

A LANDMARK decision by the House of Lords has ruled against protecting workers' rights when their jobs are transferred to a new employer.

Following a six-year battle, teachers at a residential school in St Helens have been told a significant principle built into European Union employment protection laws does not apply in the UK.

The test case revealed that the mass sacking of employees can be part of a transfer deal, giving the new employer further scope to cut pay and conditions of such staff.

Ironically, the employer in this instance was supported by arguments from employment law expert Cherie Booth QC.

Unions said the decision could affect many industrial tribunal claims, focusing on the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981, the UK's interpretation of the EU's Acquired Rights Directive. Unions are now considering an appeal to Europe.

Keith Sonnet, assistant general secretary of public sector union Unison, which represented the teachers, said: "It is a bad judgment and throws TUE protection into doubt."

Unions could now be forced to fight hundreds of unfair dismissal claims before they contest the actual cuts imposed by a new employer. Tribunals, however, often make monetary awards in unfair dismissal cases but rarely give staff their jobs back.

The case, *Wilson and Others v St Helens Borough Council*, arose after the transfer of a school for children with special needs from a Lancashire County Council to St Helens Borough Council. Staff dismissed. The staff were dismissed be-

fore they made the transfer. Only a proportion were kept on and they were told that they would have to accept cuts in pay and conditions.

He said the union would be looking for "imaginative ways" to take the case to the European Court of Justice for clarification — something the Lords had been expected to do.

Last year the Court of Appeal agreed with the appeals tribunal that the dismissals were a device used by employers to weaken the protection rights of employees. It declared they were "a nullity" and the employer should be made to prove the cuts were made for economic, technical or organisational reasons.

Last week the Lords declared that the concept of "a nullity" did not exist in UK law and the teachers' dismissals still stood.

Case history

1992: Residential school transferred from Lancashire County Council to St Helens Borough Council. Staff dismissed. Some re-employed at lower pay by new employer.
1993: Case heard at industrial tribunal. Rules against staff.
1994: Employment appeals tribunal rules that Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 apply. Finds against employer.
1997: Appeal Court upholds case against employer.
1998: House of Lords says special needs school dismissals are null and void. Unions say it will appeal to European Court.

Insurer's profits collapse

Jill Treanor

ROYAL and Sun Alliance may be forced to make further cuts to its 22,000-strong UK workforce after suffering a third-quarter profits slump.

Formed from the merger of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance two years ago, the insurer yesterday reported a collapse in operating profits to £37 million in the third quarter from £287 million the previous year. Its shares fell more than 9 per cent to 486½p after the results, added to what has been a difficult week for the insurer, which was fined £225,000 on Wednesday for missing a key deadline for compensating victims of pensions mis-selling.

Some 5,000 jobs in the UK have already been cut as a result of the merger between the two insurers and Bob Mendelsohn, chief executive, yesterday refused to rule out further cutbacks to the worldwide workforce of 43,000.

"You have to take action on underwriting, getting the right cost base, in that environment, I'm not prepared to rule out job losses," Mr Mendelsohn said.

Any cuts will be known be-

fore the insurer reports its full-year results in March, by which time the sweeping review instigated by Mr Mendelsohn when he became chief executive will have been completed.

In the nine-month period to the end of September, Royal and Sun Alliance's profits fell to £586 million from £833 million. Its investment income fell by £71 million to £594 million, while life premiums rose to £1.82 billion from £1.82 billion.

The insurers blamed the profits downturn on "volatile weather, an increase in the frequency of losses and fierce competition in the commercial insurance market."

Hurricane George, which ripped through the southern US, cost Royal and Sun Alliance £80 million in the third quarter and contributed to a £164 million increase in nine-month losses due to the weather. The impact of the bad weather in south Wales and the west of England will not be known until the end of the year.

Royal and Sun Alliance also had more large claims (upwards of £500,000) than usual — 63 against 11 last year.

Trevor May, insurance analyst at Salomon Smith Barney, said the insurer's experience of larger claims and



Soggy summer brings washout

THE wet summer boosted umbrella sales at Boots, but the company's profits were hit by a slump in demand for sun cream.

The result was £3 million less profit in the first half of the year, despite an 8 per cent increase in total sales and a small rise in operating profit to £251 million.

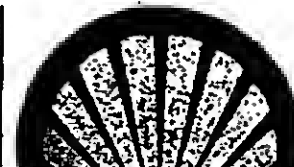
Lord Blyth, the chairman, said yesterday it was difficult to isolate the impact of a rainy summer. "There are difficulties separating the weather effect from consumer confidence, but miserable weather doesn't encourage footfall."

The company's estimates that sales in the Boots chain were £20 million lower than in a normal summer. Sales of sunglasses were 5 per cent lower than last year, with sunscreens down by 3.5 per cent. The Halfords chain saw sales of cycles fall by nearly 4 per cent.

The silver lining was a 17 per cent rise in umbrella sales, 15 per cent higher takings on cough and cold products and an increase in beauty, bath and hair care sales.

Lord Blyth said the group was pressing ahead with expansion at home and abroad. A further 15 edge-of-town Boots stores will be opened this year, adding to the 27 already trading.

Lord Blyth said the first stores in Thailand were doing well, while the trial in the Netherlands was still at the experimental stage. Boots aims to open four stores in Japan next year in a venture with Mitsubishi.



Crude prices hit margins

PROFITS at oil company Royal Dutch/Shell fell by 57 per cent during the third quarter, underlining the need for the drastic reorganisation outlined by chairman Mark Moody-Stuart in September.

Mr Moody-Stuart said the group could face further problems with oil prices over the next few years likely to fall below the \$12-\$16 a barrel he forecast less than two months ago.

Third quarter net income announced yesterday fell from \$2,063 million (£1,235 million) to \$896 million, leaving profits for the first nine months 33 per cent lower at \$4,089 million.

The company blamed the downturn mainly on a 33 per cent fall in crude oil prices and the impact of the Asia-Pacific recession on its chemical operations and on its refinery and retail petrol businesses. "The disappointing overall results, coupled with the possibility of a period of relatively low oil prices and low economic growth, lend urgency to ongoing efforts to restructure the group," Mr Moody-Stuart said.

The group is shedding 1,000 jobs at Shell Expro in Britain and Shell Oil in the United States and closing refineries in Britain, the US and Japan.

Mr Moody-Stuart said plans for further refinery closures were at an advanced stage.

Troubled oil group to shed £125m of North Sea assets

Terry Macalister and Nicholas Bamister

Oil independent Lasmo is planning to sell off most of its UK North Sea gas assets, worth up to £125 million, in an effort to return to profit.

News of Lasmo's decision to sell interests in 25 southern North Sea blocks comes as Eastern, the gas and electricity combine, said it had paid £100 million for BHP Petroleum's exploration and production assets in the region.

Lasmo, which has already sold its Italian interests, is retaining its involvement with the Markham field, its key producing asset.

The moves by Lasmo and BHP underline the growing need for the exploration and production sector to raise money to counter the impact of low oil prices.

of southern North Sea assets but said: "This is part of a strategic review rather than a response to the low oil price."

Lasmo reported a net loss of £5 million for the year first half, compared with £26 million profit last time. "It has been hit by £13 a barrel price and seen its share price fall to 185p from a year high of 309p."

Eastern, which has more than three million electricity customers and a million gas customers, said it would quadruple its North Sea gas interests by buying BHP's interests. The deal will make it the biggest investor in the Johnstone field, lifting its stake from 5 to 35 per cent and give it 19 per cent of the Ravenspurn North field.

But it does not intend to keep BHP's interests in some non-producing discoveries and prospects in seven exploration licences. These are likely to be traded for other gas producing assets or sold.

News in brief

Hyundai prepares to take control of Kia

CREDITORS of Kia Motors Corp, the insolvent South Korean car maker, have accepted Hyundai's proposal to write off debt, paving the way for its acquisition.

Hyundai, the nation's largest vehicle manufacturer, asked Kia creditors to swap Won2.5 trillion (£1.15 billion) of debt for Won840 billion of equity and to write off Won4.7 trillion of debt. The request covers about 80 per cent of Won3 trillion of claims. The creditors offered to Kia and its Asia Motors affiliate before the two collapsed last year.

Hyundai won the right to acquire Kia and Asia Motors in an auction last month. It agreed to pay Won1.3 trillion by March to buy 51 per cent of the two groups. — *Bloomberg*

Yates will create 670 jobs

YATES Brothers Wine Lodges chain said it will create 670 jobs next year in 25 new branches.

The group also reported a big rise in profits. Yates, of Bolton, which also trades under the names Bibb Shops, Watling Street Inns and Hal Hal Bar and Canteen, has opened 18 lodges in recent months and has more than 110 outlets. In the 26 weeks to September 27, Yates made a pre-tax profit of £8.2 million on turnover of £26.4 million. This compares with £5.1 million on \$44.1 million during the same period last year. — *PA*

Shoppers reject hype

SHOPPERS reject supermarkets bombarding them with Christmas goods and festive displays too early in the year, says a survey.

More than two-thirds of consumers believe October is too soon to be confronted by Christmas. The message to supermarkets, according to the survey of 1,000 shoppers conducted for Supermarket Magazine, is that 60 per cent of people do not want to see Christmas goods filling the shelves in the first week of October. Nearly three-quarters of women shoppers accused the big stores of overkill. The group objecting the most were those aged 45-64. Sainsbury, which had Christmas lines in September last year, said: "We wouldn't use up valuable shelf space if they did not sell." — *PA*

Leg up from arms trade

A DEFENCE Diversification Agency will be created to help companies in the civilian economy exploit advanced technology developed for military purposes, the Government said in a White Paper.

"But we are not in the business of subsidising industry," said George Robertson, the Defence Secretary. The agency will be set up in the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency and will be headed by Jon Carr, who is there on secondment from T1 Group. The Campaign Against the Arms Trade said the objective should be to reduce the degree to which the British economy depended on weapons production. — *Richard Norton-Taylor*

'Knife the baby' claim



Mark Tran in Washington

MICROSOFT told rivals at Apple to "knife the baby" and dump its QuickTime multimedia software, the landmark antitrust trial against Bill Gates's company heard yesterday.

The claim of Microsoft's ultimatum came as the court heard a third day of testimony from Avadis Tevanian, an Apple senior vice-president. According to Mr Tevanian, the exchange occurred during a meeting between executives of the two companies, when the Microsoft officials told Apple that it was

time to withdraw from the multimedia market. At one point, Peter Hoddie of Apple asked for clarification: "Are you really asking us to kill QuickTime? Do you want us to knife the baby?"

According to Mr Tevanian, Christopher Phillips, the business development manager for Microsoft, replied: "Yes, we're talking about knifing the baby."

But under cross questioning, Mr Tevanian admitted that he was not at the meeting. QuickTime is multimedia software that allows computer users to combine images with words, music or other sounds to create "virtual" experiences. First released for Apple's Macintosh operating system in 1991 and then for Windows in 1992, QuickTime is the market leader for multimedia software.

In his written testimony,

Mr Tevanian accused Microsoft of putting pressure on Apple to cede the multimedia market to Microsoft's deliberately sabotaging QuickTime on Windows and threatening third parties not to use QuickTime. Theodore Edelman, a Microsoft lawyer, presented a memo written by Rose Zly, an Apple engineer, in which he suggested that Microsoft bundle QuickTime into Windows.

But Mr Tevanian brushed aside the memo, saying it was just a discussion paper that was later rejected by Apple interim chairman Steve Jobs.

"They didn't have any good ideas. They weren't business people," Mr Tevanian said. He had earlier accused Microsoft of forcing Apple to adopt the Internet Explorer as its default or primary browser.

The government is accusing Microsoft of anti-competitive behaviour in the trial, which is in its third week.

Faster trains - with strings

Keith Harper Transport Editor

RAILTRACK and GNER are planning a £1.5 billion deal to create the fastest-ever rail link between London and Edinburgh, provided the Government extends the train operator's franchise.

Both organisations said they were working to improve the 400-mile line over the next 10 years. The aim is to reduce the current journey time by 45 minutes to three-and-a-half hours.

Christopher Garnett, GNER's chief executive, said that there was nothing to stop the project being started

within the next two years — if the Government agrees to an extension of its seven-year franchise, due to expire in 2002. The company wants an extension to 2011, to enable it to invest in new rolling stock, including tilting trains.

The deal is likely to hinge on whether John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, agrees. In spite of his criticism of the train operating companies, Mr Prescott has accepted that GNER's performance has been generally good and Mr Garnett said he was optimistic that a favourable decision would be made.

Gerald Corbett, Railtrack's chief executive, doubted that any deal could be struck until after a regulatory review in

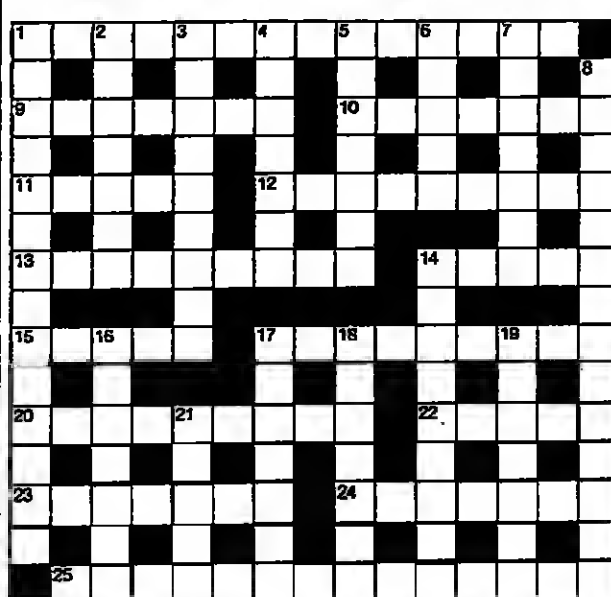
2001, however. Railtrack yesterday revealed that its half-yearly profits rose by nearly 10 per cent to £224 million.

Ten bus companies in the North-west of England were exposed yesterday for "blatantly anti-competitive price fixing" by a Restrictive Practices Court. The cartel had denied the chance of cheaper fares to the people of Liverpool and surrounding areas.

The companies involved were Merseyside Transport, North Western Road Car Company, South Lancashire Transport Company, C & M Travel, Nip-on-Transport, David Tanner Travel, Halton Borough Transport, RMT, First Manchester and Greater Manchester Buses South.

Guardian Crossword No 21,425

Set by Taupi



Across

- 1 Detrimental to a scruffy ragamuffin (14)
- 9 Selenal disturbance having no end (7)
- 10 Time to confine to abbey (7)
- 11 Back ten in plane, say, for exercise (5)
- 12 France's enthusiastic about returning perfume (9)
- 13 Verdancy's fair in fields to a point (9)
- 14 Lace flag (5)
- 15 Out of practice but reliable if given time (5)
- 17 Meditated on how one sees oneself (9)
- 20 Quick survey again and again? (5,4)
- 22 He's got the message (5)
- 23 One tipping dog (7)
- 24 Refuse bearer of gifts (4-3)
- 25 Good possibility of catching person out? (8,5)

Down

- 1 Unlikely relation of time to one twisting past it (10,4)



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From Hardy to Thatcher and Vicious, 100 faces that shaped the century

Dan Glaister on a photo retrospective

WHAT is the abiding photographic image of the century? For some it may be the Jarrow marchers. For others it could be Margaret Thatcher. Sid Vicious or Stanley Spencer?

In the latest effort to encapsulate the century, the National Portrait Gallery yesterday announced details of Faces Of The Century, a photographic retrospective chosen by 10 public figures. Each will choose 10 images, which will go on show next October.

The selection panel contemplating the gallery's exhaustive photographic archive includes fashion designer Vivienne Westwood, professor of mathematics Stephen Hawking, David Bowie, the historian Baron Briggs, Baroness Helena Kennedy, the broadcaster Anna Ford and Trevor Phillips, Evening Standard editor Max Hastings, and the film director and producer Lord Puttnam.

Announcing the venture, Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, also a member of the selection panel, said: "This is a really worthwhile way of marking the end of the millennium. We hope to include the great, the significant, the symbolic, the auspicious and the historic. It will be a significant survey of 20th century British life."

Lord Sainsbury illustrated his selection with a photograph of Thomas Hardy. "He is one of the greatest writers in Britain and yet none of us would have recognised him. All of my 10 are from the world of the arts and literature, chosen in the belief that in 100

years they will still be of relevance. Very few, fortunately, from politics are remembered."

Lord Puttnam, who admitted that he had only managed to narrow his selection down to 30 or 40 images, said he hoped to use the opportunity to celebrate achievement and to sound a warning. "I started thinking about the changes in Britain in this century and what exemplified them. The great triumph has been the development of a multi-cultural, multi-racial society."

In choosing a photograph of Oswald Mosley and his black-shirt supporters, Lord Puttnam revealed something of his family history. His father, who worked as a professional photographer, is just visible on the edge of one photograph. Lord Puttnam did not know of the image until he went through the gallery's archive.

"This was not Nazi Germany, it was Nazi Britain. The Mosley appeal went very far and is the greatest threat to achieving a multi-cultural society. It is a very personal photograph for me. I was brought up being very aware of the issues. I want to remind people of how thin tolerance is and how easy it is for a society to tip over into intolerance."

While Helena Kennedy revealed that one of the images she had chosen was of anti-Vietnam war protesters, Prof Hawking chose Francis Crick and James Watson, who first described the structure of DNA.

"I have concentrated on scientists and women, the important members of society," said Prof Hawking.



A panel choosing 10 photographs each from the National Portrait Gallery's archive includes (above, from left) Max Hastings, Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, Stephen Hawking, Trevor Phillips, Baroness Helena Kennedy, and (rear) Lord Puttnam. They are pictured with the gallery's director, Charles Saumarez Smith (left at rear). The pictures include suffragettes (left), photographed by Mrs Albert Brown, and Thomas Hardy (right), by Olive Holland.

PHOTOGRAPH (left) GRAHAM TURNER



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150 من الامارات

010001 24

David Hopps and Vivek Chaudhary, and John Perlman in Johannesburg, report on the worst crisis in West Indies cricket history

The life and strife of Brian

Received as captain after pay dispute.

DO-IT recruits a diverse group of students from all over the country, even in the West Indies as

disorder in Port of Spain, was given such treatment.

The Caribbean News Agency and the Antigua Broadcasting Service coverage began at 9pm and continued until 9pm. Radio stations did not even break for the news: the press conference itself was the only news.

At 8.30pm the WICB chairman, the Jamaican Patrouille, emerged for the poor's demonstration with

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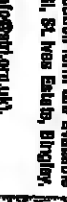
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SOIL SCIENTIST



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Room and bust

by David Shenton

What a night!

I haven't slept a wink... my nerves are in shreds

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Database Design Team Leader

Biometrics Operations Support

Pfizer is a research-based, global, healthcare company. We discover and develop innovative, value added products that enable millions of people around the world to enjoy longer, healthier and more productive lives.

Reporting to the Head of Database Development & Administration, you will take the leading role within the database design team. Primarily strengthening the database support team, you will establish high quality Clinical Trial databases enabling the effective and timely analysis and reporting of studies from data collection. This is an exciting opportunity to input to design on a new system and to help produce new Global working practices. Responsibilities will include:

- Acting as the first point of contact, trouble-shooting, setting priorities for the team and liaising with groups both internally and externally. You will communicate the finalities to the Head of DDA and consider the effect of any delays, suggesting possible solutions.
- Working closely with corresponding Global colleagues to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the work and effect the timely mutual exchange of data, information and ideas. Be responsible for highlighting process improvement requirements and implementing new/updated Global working practices.
- Ensuring all work meets Global Standards and work practices.
- Working closely with other groups/departments to identify new areas of support.
- Ensuring that all problems and requests are assigned to appropriate groups and documented accordingly.
- Managing database set-up team work in conjunction with 'hand-on' development of databases for Clinical Trials.

Please forward a current CV quoting ref A123 to Ashley Miles, Senior Personnel Adviser Pfizer Central Research, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NU.

Closing date: 20th November 1998.

<http://www.pfizer.co.uk/recruit>

Pfizer Central Research

Be part of the cure

A voice for autism

Sun Accounts Application Manager

£28,000

The National Autistic Society is the UK's foremost charitable organisation for people with autism and those who care for them. Spearheading national and international initiatives and providing a strong voice for autism.

The post has been newly created in order to restructure our SunAccount general ledger software to facilitate remote on-line access for enquiry data input and reporting purposes. Working closely with the IT and Finance departments you will ensure the system is optimally configured to provide a fast, efficient and effective solution. You will also provide support and training for end users and be responsible for full SunAccount system maintenance.

With extensive hands-on SunAccount experience you will be ready to move into a more challenging and exciting environment with a keen interest in both technology and finance. Your first rate technical experience will be coupled with excellent communication skills and the ability to work with staff at all levels.

If you would like to join us at this exciting stage of our development, please contact our Personnel Department on 0171 903 3591 (24 hour answerphone), quoting reference number FDI for further information and an application form.

Closing date: 20 November 1998.

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Department for Continuing Education

The Department's Technology Analysis Learning programme is developing leading edge technology-supported courses and seminars. To be considered for the following new staff are required:

Course Developer (Computing)

Grade RSL

Salary Range: £21,915 - £28,048

The successful candidate will be responsible for design and content of an internet-based version of the Department's Undergraduate Certificate in Computing.

Key skills required: in-depth knowledge of major aspects of current computing theory and practice; substantial experience of course design; preferably in a tertiary education context; demonstrable skills at a range of materials designed for independent student use; excellent oral and written communication skills; and a proven ability to work in a team.

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Such leaves his Mark

Mike Selvey in Adelaide

GENTLE rain interrupted a night of preparation for the first Test match between South Africa and Australia at the Adelaide Oval on Tuesday. The South African captain, Allan Border, was seen in the rain, looking at the pitch and the weather. The Australian captain, Steve Waugh, was seen in the rain, looking at the pitch and the weather.

Having had to settle for a rain-soaked evening, the South Africans were left with a bruised nose. The Australian captain, Steve Waugh, was seen in the rain, looking at the pitch and the weather.

Tomorrow's first Test match between South Africa and Australia at the Adelaide Oval is expected to be a close contest. The South African captain, Allan Border, was seen in the rain, looking at the pitch and the weather.

England would have liked to have given Ben Hollister a game here, particularly as he has been in good form. The Australian captain, Steve Waugh, was seen in the rain, looking at the pitch and the weather.

Both might, and if so a final batting place would fall between Mark Ramprakash and John Crawley. The Australian captain, Steve Waugh, was seen in the rain, looking at the pitch and the weather.

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Team talk

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ASTON VILLA
FOOTBALL CLUB

Dublin joins Villa on the glory trail

Paul White

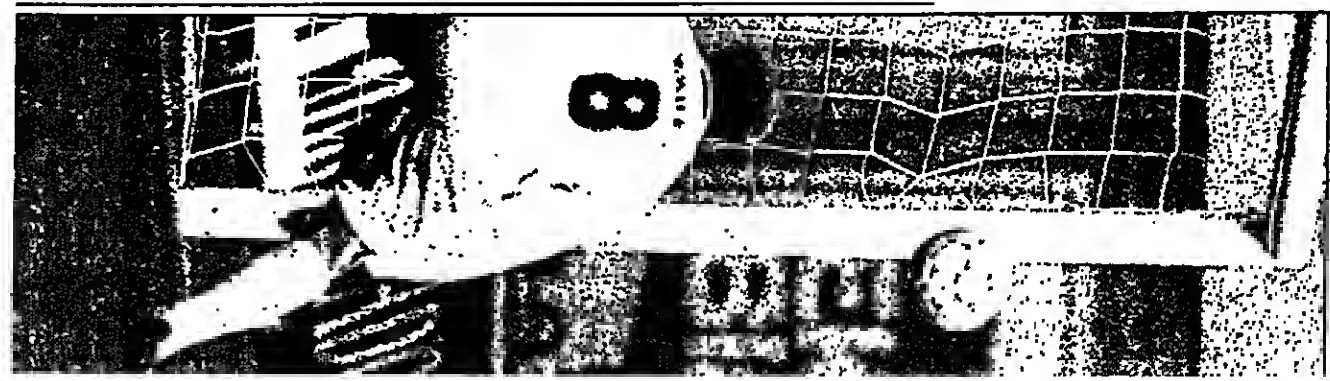
STON VILLA just might complete the double by winning the League Cup on Saturday night when they take on Celtic at the stadium in Dublin. The club's manager, John Gregory, says the team is "in a great mood" and "looking forward to the challenge".

European Cup Winners' Cup, second round, second leg FC Copenhagen 0 Chelsea 1 (agg 1-2)

Laudrup delivers farewell present

Paul Weaver in Copenhagen

ON the third time in the history of the European Cup Winners' Cup, a Danish player has scored the winning goal in a second leg. Michael Laudrup, the Chelsea midfielder, delivered a farewell present to his club by scoring the only goal of the match in the 85th minute. The goal was the result of a brilliant passing move involving Laudrup, Dennis Bergkamp, and Dennis Wise.



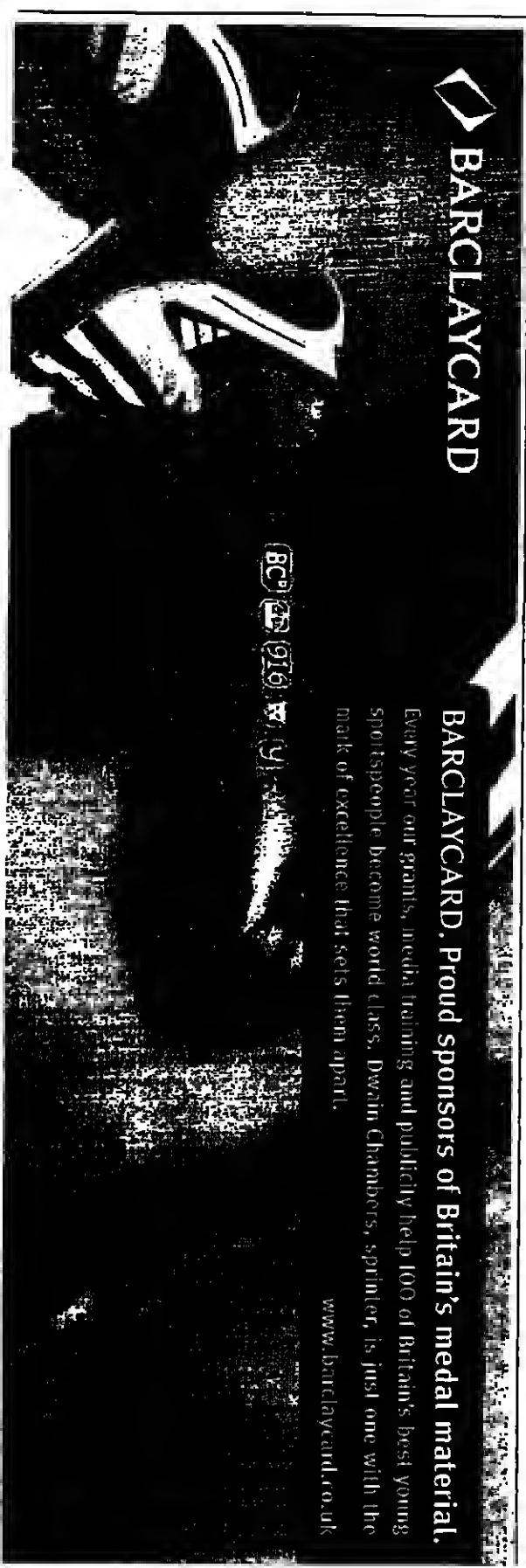
Uefa Cup, second round, second leg: Rangers 1 Bayer Leverkusen 1 (agg 3-2) Johansson finds the fire power to answer German pressure

Patrick O'Brien

CHALLENGE? Knock across the goal area, was too little too late for Rangers. The German side, Bayer Leverkusen, were the more powerful team in the second leg of the Uefa Cup.

BARCLAYCARD. Proud sponsors of Britain's medal material. Every year our grants, media training and publicity help 100 of Britain's best young sportspeople become world class. Down Chambers, spring is just one with the mark of excellence that sets them apart.

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Bailey keen on Leggiera

Ben Cox

JERRY BAILEY, winner of six British Cup titles, has been named as the new head of the British Equestrian Federation. Bailey, who has been a leading figure in the equestrian community for many years, is expected to take up the role in the coming months.



Tight finish... Paul Dole (white cap) gets up close home to score on Fiddle Tye in the opening handily at Brighton

Langer is suited to game of blind man's buff

Gordon Richardson in Atlanta

BERNARD LANGER, the world's number one golfer, has been described as a "blind man's buff" by his fellow players. Langer's unique playing style, which involves a lot of guesswork and intuition, has earned him the nickname.

Results

Football

European Cup

Second round, second leg

Chelsea 1 FC Copenhagen 0

Rangers 1 Bayer Leverkusen 1

Manchester United 2 Arsenal 1

Liverpool 3 Tottenham 1

Sheff Wed 1 Nott Forest 0

Derby 1 Millwall 0

Sheff Utd 1 Nott Forest 0

Derby 1 Millwall 0

Sheff Utd 1 Nott Forest 0

Derby 1 Millwall 0

Sheff Utd 1 Nott Forest 0

Derby 1 Millwall 0

Sheff Utd 1 Nott Forest 0

Derby 1 Millwall 0

Sheff Utd 1 Nott Forest 0

Sport in brief

Motor Sport

Colin McRae, driving a Subaru, made a brilliant start to the Rally Australia yesterday, setting the sixth place on the first special stage of the event.

Snooker

John Higgins, the Welsh snooker player, has been named as the new champion of the World Snooker Championship.

Rugby Union

The British and Irish Lions have been named as the new champions of the Rugby Union World Cup.

Ice Hockey

The New York Rangers have been named as the new champions of the NHL.

Cricket

The England cricket team has been named as the new champions of the Ashes.

Football

The Manchester United football team has been named as the new champions of the Premier League.

Hockey

The Canadian national hockey team has been named as the new champions of the Winter Olympics.

Baseball

The New York Yankees have been named as the new champions of the MLB.

Baseball

The New York Yankees have been named as the new champions of the MLB.

8 Sport98

The Guardian Friday November 6 1998

Doncaster Jackpot card with guide to the form

Table with 4 columns: Race, Time, Odds, and Horses. Includes races 1.00, 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00, 5.30, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30.

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Hexham (N.H.)

Table with 4 columns: Race, Time, Odds, and Horses. Includes races 1.00, 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00, 5.30, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30.

Uttroter (N.H.)

Table with 4 columns: Race, Time, Odds, and Horses. Includes races 1.00, 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00, 5.30, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30.

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1.20 BUCHANAN ALES MAIDEN CHASE

Table with 4 columns: Race, Time, Odds, and Horses. Includes races 1.00, 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00, 5.30, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30.

3.20 FEDERATION BREWERY BELTING

Table with 4 columns: Race, Time, Odds, and Horses. Includes races 1.00, 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00, 5.30, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30.

2.20 FEDERATION BREWERY INVIGOR HURDLE

Table with 4 columns: Race, Time, Odds, and Horses. Includes races 1.00, 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00, 5.30, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30.

2.50 ROYAL DOWRY MAIDEN HURDLE

Table with 4 columns: Race, Time, Odds, and Horses. Includes races 1.00, 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00, 5.30, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30.

1.40 INVIGOR BELTING HURDLE

Table with 4 columns: Race, Time, Odds, and Horses. Includes races 1.00, 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00, 5.30, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30.

2.10 BANK'S NO 8 INVIGOR HURDLE

Table with 4 columns: Race, Time, Odds, and Horses. Includes races 1.00, 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00, 5.30, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30.

4.10 INVIGOR HURDLE

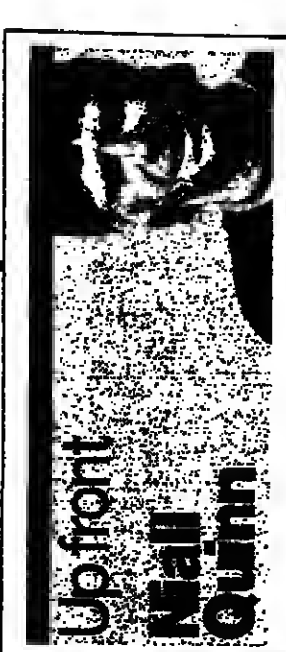
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3.40 INVIGOR HURDLE

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8 Sport98

The Guardian Friday November 6 1998



Up front
Neil Quinn

Pooled talents
better than
one-man rule

THIS has been a season of change for Liverpool. Jack... After the defeat of... Liverpool City on Saturday... Liverpool City on Saturday... Liverpool City on Saturday...



Referee revokes Ndlovu red card

THE FA spokesman Steve... The FA spokesman Steve... The FA spokesman Steve... The FA spokesman Steve... The FA spokesman Steve...

Referee revokes Ndlovu red card

THE FA spokesman Steve... The FA spokesman Steve... The FA spokesman Steve... The FA spokesman Steve... The FA spokesman Steve...

Another thoroughbred finds odds too high

With Julie Cecil handling in her licence tomorrow, **Phil Rostrom** reports on the changes in British horse racing that are forcing out the old-style Classics trainers

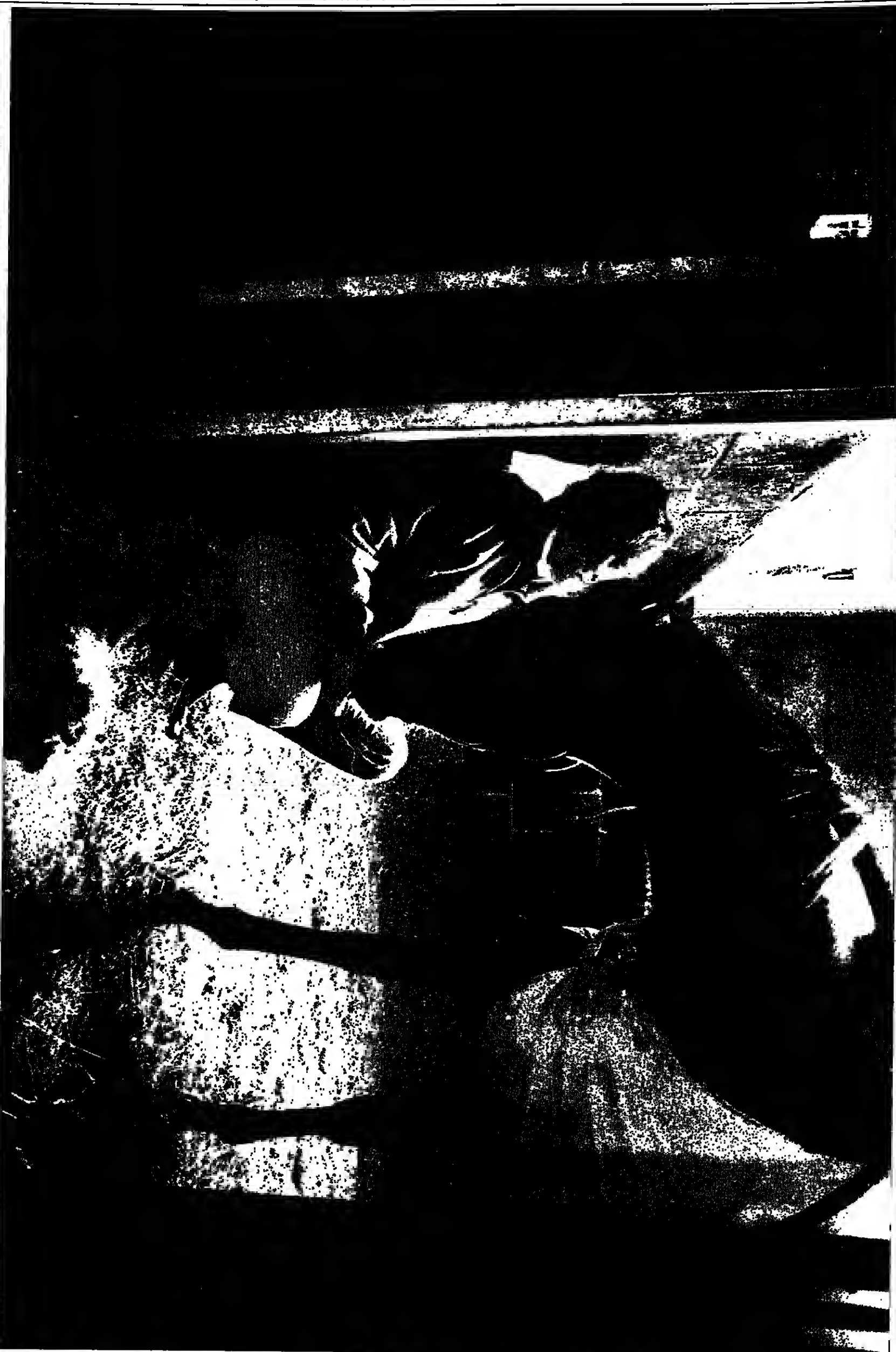
JULIE CECIL, who has been associated with more Classic successes than any other trainer, bows out of her profession tomorrow. Her plight is the same as that of many trainers who have recently handed in their licenses — lack of finance.

For Ceall, this is a new experience. Since childhood, she has been associated with racing, either on and off the course. Her father was Noel Murless, the best trainer of his generation, who won 13 Classics including the Derby with St Paddy and Royal Palace, and whose stables were housed at the palace's racing Place in the heart of Dublin's headquarters, Leinster House.

In 1966 Julia married Henry Cecil who assumed Murtless' mantle at Warren Plaza, ultimately dominating the training profession with horses such as the Triple Crown winner Oh So Sharp and the Derby winners Slip Anchor and Red service. Phil, Lester Piggott and Steve Cullen were given a leg-up by the Cecil's, who were courted by the likes of the London property magnate Lord Howard de Walden. Sheikh Mohammed took the newly-of-foes Duffel, and Jim Jewell, whose family amassed a fortune from South African diamond mines.

For Julie Cecil, that world ends tomorrow at the last Turf Flat meeting of the season at Doncaster. Her departure from the training ranks is perhaps the most poignant of all those who have handed in their licences this year: "I can't make it pay," she says. "Seddy, it's time to call it a day. The party is over."

It is apt that Oglethorpe's son, George, from whom she has retained under the spell, went on to attend to school, to become a doctor, to marry and to have a family. He was a good son, a good doctor, a good husband and a good father. Nick, however, who was formerly based at the all-weather racing centres at Southwell and Wolverhampton where modern horses train for moderate sums of money, was not so good. He was a bad son, a bad doctor, a bad husband and a bad father. He was a bad person, a bad man, a bad animal, a bad creature, a bad beast, a bad thing, a bad person, a bad man, a bad animal, a bad creature, a bad beast, a bad thing.



amount quality rather than quantity in terms of prices paid. "I've been able to make money with an eventer since horses were going dead in their thousands," says Gellert. "In that time, anyone who could afford to support a driving horse in that way was the continuing player in the game. In this country, it's becoming a little like the Cadillac of the game."

After such a long time, Gellert out the horses which excite to both my father and Henry with the best of breeding. "I know horses who could really go through the gears and out the guinea up beautifully when you asked them, I have been dealing mostly of Southpaws with horses whose legs would

droof of it if you wished them to go at the pace I was used to," Coach says.

Palmer will have been returning in his grave at the time my racing has started since he departed 15 years ago. He would be appalled at about this looking after the horses these days. It was always known in his day as being their "twof," I am sorry for youngsters shelling out for a third of the horses in Newmarket are simply and wishes you have seen and results coming in each season, even in a medium-sized stall, it is so very different. People are feeling very few but people are feeling to have them that are "twof" in a story about "twof" at

Southgate, a 193-
184 winners. He
with Lou
Walden's Colar
rise to "a bit of
next party one
not her yet, im
ling and a move
for her name, b
William J. J. W
assistant to Men
The split with
resulted in the
Place in the o
ment, terms as
Cecil finds he
cuss, though a
"You sure,
doesn't it? I s
summer party
riding out with

[illegible][illegible]

much as 300,000 horses."



NEEDLE

1988

Three who failed to last the distance

Lord Huntingdon (repeated) came a bit when the cheese went with Mabel Dick. I'm in 1981, and installed Lord Huntingdon two night after the West India week. Three about and Dick followed in Huntingdon's first three relations there, but for the present they were the royal couple, the first of the royal couple, the first of the royal couple. The

assemble, said
 Humlygoon,
 "easily."
 "Good my mate,
 the dagger is
 right. It has not
 made a hole
 with



pinch yourself
you're not



PC
85

The Swiss Alps 8.00a.m. 178mph.

pinch yourself
not dreaming

ACQUA

هكذا من الاصل

010001 54-